HUNTER TRAVEL GUIDES

BERMUDA ALIVE!

Harriet Greenberg

VISIT…

BERMUDA ALIVE!

Harriet Greenberg

HUNTER

Hunter Publishing, Inc.
130 Campus Drive
Edison, NJ 08818-7816
☎ 732-225-1900 / 800-255-0343 / Fax 732-417-1744
Web site: www.hunterpublishing.com
E-mail: hunterp@bellsouth.net

IN CANADA
Ulysses Travel Publications
4176 Saint-Denis
Montreal, Québec H2W 2M5 Canada
☎ 514-843-9882, Ext. 2232 / Fax 514-843-9448

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About the Alive! Guides

Reliable, detailed and personally researched by knowledgeable authors, the *Alive!* series was founded by Harriet and Arnold Greenberg.

This accomplished travel-writing team also operates a renowned bookstore, **The Complete Traveller**, at 199 Madison Avenue in New York City.

Each is a complete travel guide to the destination, but *Alive! Guides* place special emphasis on the hotels, shopping, restaurants and entertainment, with full descriptions based on the authors' repeat visits.

Other guides in the series include:

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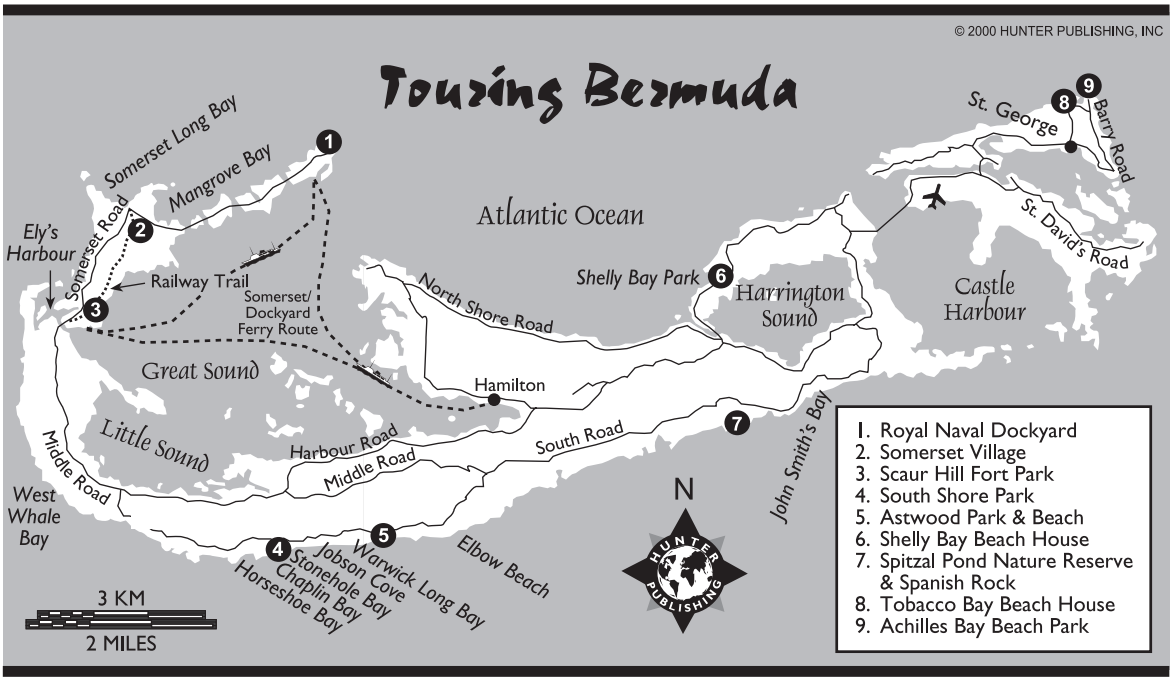
Introduction

Mother Nature has been very kind to Bermuda. Six hundred and fifty miles from the nearest landfall and in the Atlantic Ocean rather than the Caribbean Sea, Bermuda has mild weather year round thanks to the Gulf Stream, a wide band of warm water flowing from the equator. Never too hot in the spring and summer, when the temperatures are in the 70s and 80s, and never too cold in the winter, when the temperatures are in the 50s and 60s, Bermuda days are invariably sunny.

The island has wonderful beaches, a pristine coral reef that can be easily explored, turquoise waters so clear that visibility often reaches 150 feet deep and a fertile soil where exotic flowers, unique shrubs and the famed Bermuda onion flourish.

Many Caribbean islands make similar claims. What distinguishes Bermuda from its island neighbors is what the industrious Bermudians have done with their 21 square miles. Settled in 1609, Bermuda has a history that residents are extraordinarily proud of. The island has a distinctive culture – think British with a rum swizzle twist. Although self-governing, Bermuda remains part of the British Commonwealth and takes its association with the British very seriously. The Queen's birthday is celebrated with marching bands and wailing bagpipes, judges and even lawyers wear powdered wigs, fish n' chips is a mid-day staple and afternoon tea, a must.

At the same time, Bermuda has been determined to set its own course. They have carefully preserved their environment, protecting almost 1,000 acres for beaches, parks and nature reserves. They have main-


© 2000 HUNTER PUBLISHING, INC
Touring Bermuda
Somerset Long Bay
Mangrove Bay
Somerset Road
Ely's Harbour
Railway Trail
Somerset/ Dockyard Ferry Route
Atlantic Ocean
North Shore Road
Shelly Bay Park
Harrington Sound
Castle Harbour
St. George
Barry Road
St. David's Road
Great Sound
Hamilton
Little Sound
Harbour Road
Middle Road
South Road
John Smith's Bay
West Whale Bay
Middle Road
Jobson Cove
Warwick Long Bay
Stonehole Bay
Chaplin Bay
Horseshoe Bay
Elbow Beach
3 KM
2 MILES
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
1. Royal Naval Dockyard
2. Somerset Village
3. Scaur Hill Fort Park
4. South Shore Park
5. Astwood Park & Beach
6. Shelly Bay Beach House
7. Spitzal Pond Nature Reserve & Spanish Rock
8. Tobacco Bay Beach House
9. Achilles Bay Beach Park

tained, restored and enhanced the historic capital of St. George, as well as scores of historic buildings and churches. They have built museums and created festivals for the arts to expand the horizons of each successive generation and to encourage each to take pride in their homeland. That they have succeeded is immediately obvious, for as you travel from one end of the island to the other, the sherbet-colored homes are encircled by neatly landscaped gardens, the streets and roads are refuse-free and there is no graffiti.

Bermuda is one of the world's wealthiest countries.

There are no income or sales taxes, no slums and no major crime problems. There is low unemployment and 98% literacy. Much of Bermuda's prosperity stems from its pre-eminence as a vacation destination. They have Princess Louise to thank, for in 1883, Queen Victoria's daughter arrived for an extended stay to escape Canada's cold winter. Journalists followed and their stories created interest in Bermuda. A year later, a resort hotel was built, followed by a score of others. Eight golf courses, 100 tennis courts and a host of other amenities later, Bermuda became the crown jewel of vacation destinations. Not content to stand pat, Bermuda has consistently upgraded its amenities and added new ones. No longer a destination primarily for the wealthy, mature traveler, Bermuda draws many honeymooners as well as lots of families with children, primarily in the summer season.

Keep in mind that you'll pay a premium for the amenities. Hotel rates are high and several taxes added to the bill make them even higher. Bermuda's finest restaurants are close in price to restaurants in New York and Los Angeles, although there are less expensive options. The lack of wheels (visitors are not permitted to rent cars) may be disconcerting as well since part of the pleasure is wandering off the beaten track and in

Bermuda you can feel safe doing so. But you can rent a bicycle or motor scooter for your explorations.

Bermuda can be an acquired taste. When researching this book and on our own family vacations here, we met people who come year after year, often meeting friends they've made on previous visits.

Mark Twain, who visited often, said it best. "Sometimes a dose of Bermuda is just what the doctor ordered." Enjoy!

★ TELEPHONING BERMUDA

To call Bermuda from abroad you must dial 441 before the seven-digit number.

Getting There

By Air

Several airlines offer non-stop service to Bermuda from gateway cities along the east coast of the US. **American Airlines** (☎ 800-433-7300) flies twice daily from New York. **Continental Airlines** (☎ 800-231-0856) flies from Newark, while **Delta Airlines** (☎ 800-221-1212) flies from Boston and Atlanta. **US Airways** (☎ 800-428-4322), with service from Baltimore/Washington DC, Charlotte NC, Philadelphia and New York, is another good choice. **Air Canada** (☎ 800-776-3000) flies daily from Toronto and on Saturdays from Halifax, in season only. **British Airways** (☎ 800-247-9297) has several flights weekly from London's Gatwick Airport.

To get the best fares you must do your homework or have an experienced travel agent do it for you. Check the Internet to get some ballpark figures. Keep in mind that length of time before departure, the season and a host of other factors affect fares.

Explore package tours for honeymooners, golfers, and divers, as well as those offered by specific hotels.

By Cruise Ship

Many vacationers arrive in Bermuda aboard a cruise ship. Bermuda is a popular cruise destination and would be even more popular but for government regulations limiting the number of weekly visits. In an effort to prevent overcrowding, Bermuda limits the number of ships that visit weekly to five and it does not allow ships to stay in port over a weekend.

Ships dock overnight in Hamilton, in St. George's or at The Royal Naval Dockyard. Some even alternate nights at each dock, making sightseeing and shopping forays easier.

The cruise lines making weekly sails at this writing are: **Royal Caribbean** (☎ 877-460-9990), which sails out of New York from May through October, as does **Celebrity Cruises** (☎ 800-437-3111). **Norwegian Cruise Lines** (☎ 800-327-7030) has sailings from Boston as well as New York and has a longer season, with cruises starting in April and continuing into November. These cruises are typically seven nights, with four days in Bermuda and four nights at sea. Periodically, other cruise lines include a day-stop in Bermuda as part of a longer cruise. They normally dock in Hamilton. Check with a travel agent in the travel section of your Sunday newspaper, or check the web.

Private Yachts

Yacht racing takes center stage in Bermuda in June and yachts from the east coast of the US and from the Caribbean head here to take part.

WARNING

It is critical that the charts you use are up-to-date because the reefs around the islands are treacherous.

Bermuda has two lighthouses, as well as buoys, beacons and shore lights to guide you. All visiting yachts enter and depart Bermuda's waters through the clearing station on Ordnance Island near St. George's. Customs, Immigration and Health clearance are all handled here. While you can anchor in this area free of charge, anchorages at the Royal Naval Dockyard and in Hamilton Harbour require a fee.

TIP

The Bermuda Department of Tourism publishes a pamphlet, *Private Yachts Sailing to Bermuda*, which may be helpful. It includes boat repair facilities as well as provisioning shops.

Getting Ready

Entry Requirements

No passports or visas are required for US and Canadian citizens but, since some proof of identity is required, if you have a passport bring it along to speed entry and departure procedures. Even a recently expired passport will suffice. Other documents that can be used include an original or certified birth certificate, a US naturalization certificate or US alien card. All of these require a photo ID as well. All passengers need a return or on-going ticket. British citizens require a valid passport.

Children also require proof of citizenship, including a photo ID.

Customs

Entering Bermuda

Visitors will speed through Customs as long as they do not have any fruits, plants, vegetables or pets. Pets are permitted, but proper documentation must be arranged in advance. You may bring cigars, cigarettes, liquor and camera equipment as long as it is for your personal use.

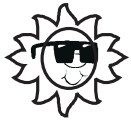
Leaving Bermuda

US – Items purchased in Bermuda fall under the standard $400 duty-free allowance per person. You may take home 100 cigars (not Cuban), 200 cigarettes and one liter of alcohol duty-free. Handicrafts, an-

Upon checking-in at your airline, you'll receive a customs declaration form.

tiques or works of art made on the island are not subject to duty. Passengers returning to the US clear US Customs at the airport before leaving Bermuda.

Canada – Canadian citizens can return with $500 Canadian worth of merchandise if they have been out of the country for seven days. Passengers returning to Canada will clear customs upon arrival.



Climate

Bermuda, a semi-tropical island, is 650 miles off the coast of North Carolina in the Atlantic Ocean. With temperatures moderated by the Gulf Stream, a typical Bermuda day, year-round, is sunny with clear skies. There is no rainy season. When it rains, and downpours can be heavy, it rarely rains for an entire day. Normally skies clear quickly.

Because Bermuda is much farther north than the Caribbean, Bermuda's winters are cooler. Temperatures from December through March are often in the 60s and rain is a bit more frequent. While these are spring-like temperatures for most Americans and perfect weather for tennis or golf, the surrounding waters become too cold for swimming or water sports. This creates an off-season here when there are fewer visitors and some activities are curtailed.

Hotel rates fall by as much as 40% and special package trips are common in the off-season.

Summer temperatures are normally in the 70s and 80s, with evenings cooling off by about 10°. Spring and fall temperatures average 5° lower.

Average Temperatures			
January	68°	July	84°
February	67°	August	85°
March	68°	September	83°
April	70°	October	80°
May	75°	November	74°
June	80°	December	70°

Packing to Go

What clothing you bring will depend on the type of holiday you've planned and the season, but keep in mind that Bermuda is much more formal than a US resort area or a typical Caribbean island. Perhaps it is the remnants of British reserve, but "smart casual" is the evening dress code here. Many restaurants, even in hotels, require jackets for men at dinner and some require jacket and tie. Chic resort wear is the norm for women. Tailored Bermuda-length shorts with knee-high socks and jacket and tie are acceptable even at formal events.

Check on the dress code when making dinner reservations.

Hotels schedule casual dining evenings.

Informal attire is acceptable at lunch or in the Hamilton shops, but that does not include bathing suits, halter-tops or bare chests. Even on a cycle you must have a shirt or jacket. Cover-ups are needed in hotel lobbies and restaurants at all times.

From December through March you'll appreciate having lightweight wools, a sweater and raingear, but don't leave your swimwear and tennis gear at home.

Don't let the "casual smart" dress code dissuade you from visiting Bermuda. You can evade it by staying in housekeeping units, cooking for yourself or eating in the smaller, informal eateries.

Money Matters

Currency

Try to avoid accumulating local currency as your trip winds down.

The legal tender here is the Bermuda dollar (BD$). It is tied to the US dollar and accepted on an equal basis. Coins are also used interchangeably. You can use US dollars everywhere, but you'll often get Bermuda money as change.

ATMs

Check with your bank about using your ATM card in Bermuda. Banks have ATM machines available 24 hours a day. The Bank of Bermuda (29 locations) and Bank of Butterfield are linked to MasterCard/Visa, Cirrus and Plus networks.

Traveler's Checks/Personal Checks

Since credit cards are not accepted everywhere, carrying some traveler's checks seems like a good option. American Express, Citicorp and Thomas Cook are readily accepted. Personal checks, drawn on US and Canadian banks, are accepted in retail stores but not in restaurants.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are accepted at most hotels (with surprising exceptions), restaurants and shops. We've noted the exceptions whenever possible. Visa and MasterCard are the most popular, with American Express close behind. Only a few spots take Diner's Club and the Discover Card is not accepted here.

Tipping

In lieu of a tip, a 15% service charge is added to your restaurant bill virtually everywhere. It is often printed at the bottom of the menu. If you are unsure, ask. If the service charge is not included, tip as you would at home.

Hotels also add a 10-15% tax to your bill daily to cover staff tips. You need not tip again unless you feel the service was exceptional, although you won't be the most popular guest around.

Baggage handlers at the airport and taxi drivers expect to be tipped as well.

Getting Around

From the Airport

Taxis, which are virtually all mini-vans, meet every arriving flight. Taxis are metered, with rates set by the government. The meter starts at $4.80 and advances 30¢ with each subsequent quarter-mile. Keep in mind that fares add up quickly. Expect to pay $10-12 for a taxi to accommodations on the east end,

$18-20 to those near Hamilton, $30 to Southampton and $40 to the west end. Two agencies, **Bermuda Hosts Ltd.** (☎ 414-293-1334) and **Beeline Transport Ltd.** (☎ 414-293-0303) provide group transportation between the airport and most hotels. Call either to arrange for pick-up. They will also pick you up at your hotel for departure.

Navigating the Island

By Car

If you've never been to Bermuda, you may be surprised to learn that you cannot rent a car here. That's right – no Hertz or Avis! I know I was surprised and more than a little wary. Cars offer the option of exploring at your own pace and allow you to find those special out-of-the-way spots that make a trip memorable. But you'll adapt quickly – everyone does – and soon find yourself using the local buses and ferries like a pro. You can augment these modes of transport by renting a motor scooter or a bicycle for part of your stay.

Clearly, Bermudians have a love-hate relationship with the automobile – none were allowed on the island until 1946 and even today cars are limited to one per resident family. You'll quickly see the rationale for these restrictions. Bermuda is quite small and its roads are narrow and winding, with many blind curves. They've continued the British custom of driving on the left, although most visitors are from the US and Canada. If visitors were allowed to rent cars, there would be chaos on the roads, for even with these stringent restrictions there are traffic jams at the roundabout (traffic circle) near Hamilton. Roads are

crowded with cars, buses, taxis and most of all with motor scooters, which are ubiquitous. Both locals and visitors use them.

By Bus

The safest and most economical way to get around Bermuda is to hop on a bus. Because of the restrictions on cars, Bermuda has developed an efficient island-wide public bus system. All major routes have service and there are stops near hotels, near restaurants, at beach and park entrances and near virtually every major tourist attraction. Though not a perfect solution since you'll still have to hike from the road, it does work.

The buses are pink and blue, as are the poles along the roadside that mark each stop. Some stops are also marked by stone shelters.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

If the pole is pink at the top, the bus is inbound to Hamilton. Outbound buses are noted by blue at the top of the pole.

There are 11 bus routes. The route number and destination are clearly noted on the front of the bus. All buses make round-trips between the Central Bus Terminal in Hamilton and their final destination. If you use the buses a lot, you'll frequently find yourself at the Central Bus Station, adjacent to City Hall on Church Street and Washington.

Some buses are air-conditioned.

Buses are scheduled to leave Hamilton every 15 or 30 minutes, depending on the route. Service begins at 6:30 or 7 am and continues through the day until early

in the evening. Buses for St. George's and the Royal Naval Dockyard run until 11 pm. Extra buses are scheduled during weekday rush hours from 3 to 5:30 pm. Buses run less frequently on Saturday and even that frequency is reduced on Sunday and holidays.

You enter and leave the bus from the front door. You must have exact change in coins – no paper currency is accepted and the driver does not make change. The island is divided into 14 zones, each about two miles long. The fare is based on the distance traveled. The cash fare for trips of 1-3 zones is $2.50 and for trips of 4-14 zones is $4.

Passes & Tokens

To avoid being weighed down by coins, consider buying a **transportation pass**, which permits unlimited travel on buses and ferries. A one-day pass is $10, three days is $21 and seven days is $34. Once the pass is validated you must use it on consecutive days.

If you don't intend to use buses or ferries often, you may prefer to buy individual tokens, which are available for both three-zone and 14-zone trips. Using a token will save you 25¢ on each trip. They are valid on ferries. Children under five ride free.

You can purchase tokens and transportation passes at many of the large hotels and at sub-post offices (but not in Hamilton) throughout the island. You can also buy them at Hamilton's Central Bus Station. Hours are Monday through Friday 7:15-5:30, Saturday 8:15-5:30 and Sunday 9:15-4:45. While there, pick up a copy of the *Public Transport* brochure published by the government. It has bus and ferry schedules. It is also available at the Visitor's Service Bureau on Front Street.

Mini-Bus Service

Two private companies run regional bus services at both tips of the island. The **West End Mini-Bus Service** (☎ 234-2344) provides service from the Royal Naval Dockyard at the tip of Ireland Island North to Somerset Bridge, making stops enroute. Stand at the roadside to flag the mini-bus and ask to get off whenever you wish. The fare is $3.50 for the entire route, but is based on distance traveled. Service starts at 8:30 am weekdays and at 10 am Saturdays and Sundays. The last bus sets out at 5:30 pm in-season and 4:30 pm off-season.

St. George's Mini-Bus Service (☎ 297-8199) is more than a bus line; it also offers you the option of exploring sites beyond the town. It makes stops at Fort St. Catherine, at Achilles and Tobacco Bay (beaches) and St. David's Island nearby. The fare is based on the sites you visit. The ticket office is adjacent to the Town Hall. Year-round service is available from 7 am to 11 pm (10 pm off-season) Monday-Saturday. Service ends at 6 pm on Sunday.

Ferries

For a delightful change of pace, hop on one of the government-operated ferries that sail across Great Sound from **Hamilton** to the **Royal Naval Dockyard** and other ports in Sandy's Parish. This is a lovely route for it crosses the heart of the sound and allows you to see the scenic coastline on the west end as well as bustling Hamilton Harbour. The ferries that ply this route are large and very comfortable, with an open-air upper level and an air-conditioned salon below. The trip from Hamilton to the Dockyard lasts 30 minutes. Some ferries continue on to **Boaz Is-**

land, to **Watford Bridge**, **Cavello Bay** and then **Somerset Bridge** (all in Sandy's Parish), before heading back to Hamilton. Other ferries simply make the round-trip from Hamilton to the Dockyard. The earliest ferry leaves Hamilton at 6:25 am weekdays and the last pulls out at 5:20 pm. They run on the hour from 9 am to 4 pm. Saturday and Sunday service begins at 9 am. The fare is $3.75 ($7.50 round-trip).

You can take a bicycle on the ferry free of charge, but a motor scooter will set you back an additional $3.75 each way.

Two other routes cross the narrower channel from Hamilton to the north shore of Paget and Warwick Parishes. This part of the island has no bus service and these ferries operate as a commuter service. The Paget ferry makes stops at Lower Ferry, Hudson's Ferry and Salt Kettle. There are several hotels and restaurants in the area. The Warwick ferry stops at Darrell's Wharf, Belmont Ferry and Hinson's Island. Service on both lines starts at 7:15 am weekdays and the last ferry leaves Hamilton at 11 pm. Saturday service starts at 8:15 am and Sunday service at 10 am. Ferries run every 30 minutes. Not every run makes every stop so check the route ahead of time. As these ferries are smaller than the ones going to the west end, motor scooters are not permitted. The fare is $2.25 each way.

From mid-April to the end of October, there is a special East-West Ferry from the Royal Naval Dockyard to St. George's. It runs on Wednesday and Thursday only leaving the Dockyard at 8:45 am and 10:30 am. The return trip from St. George's leaves there at 2 pm. This open-ocean trip allows you to see all nine of Bermuda's parishes from the sea. The fare is $10 round-trip for adults and $1 each way for children between the ages of five and 16; those four and under ride free on all routes.

The Ferry Terminal is just off Front Street near the Visitor's Service Bureau. You can pick up the govern-

ment-published *Ferry Service* brochure there. Fares for both arriving and departing passengers are collected in Hamilton. No time to get a schedule? Call them at ☎ 295-4506.

Mopeds & Motor Scooters

Called "cycles" here, mopeds and motor scooters are used by Bermudians of all ages and by many visitors to the island as well. They are your best bet if you want to go exploring off-the-beaten-track. Although you don't need a driver's license, you must be over 16 years of age to rent a cycle. Children under 16 can ride on the back seat of a two-person scooter.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

What differentiates a moped from a motor scooter? Mopeds are designed for a solo driver while motor scooters can also carry a passenger.

You can rent either easily enough. Many hotels have on-premises cycle shops often in connection with Wheels Cycles (see below) and other hotels have arrangements with cycle shops that deliver and pick up from your hotel.

A helmet, a strong lock and a lesson/practice session are part of the rental fees.

Should You Rent a Cycle?

Yes, but only if you feel comfortable operating one and have done so previously. Bermuda is not the place for a "first-time" experience. Roads are narrow and winding and there are many blind curves. Following the British custom, driving is on the left here, which means you have to concentrate and not rely on your

instincts, especially at round abouts (traffic circles). While the speed limit is only 35 km per hour (20 mph) and Bermudians are respectful drivers, they do seem to tailgate and there are no shoulders for you to pull over on. Your red and white license plate alerts drivers that yours is a rental vehicle, but it is clearly dangerous for you to check traffic over your shoulder. Unfortunately, scores of visitors end up with "Bermuda Rash," a euphemism for scrapes, cuts and even broken bones.

Rates

Still game? A single-seat cycle is $35 a day, $59 for two days and $136 for a weekly rental. Double-seat cycles are $44, $81 and $188 respectively. There is also a one-time mandatory insurance/repair waiver, usually $18. You must pay with a major credit card. Petrol (gas) stations are located throughout the island. Most are open from 7 am to 7 pm, but a few stay open until 11 pm.

WARNING

Unless you feel very comfortable on the cycle, it is prudent not to drive at night or in the rain when the roads become slick. The idea of a vacation is to have fun and not to check out the quality of Bermuda's health care.

Rentals

Wheels Cycles (formerly Astwood Cycles), Front St. Hamilton (and a dozen of the island's hotels) (☎ 441-292-2245, fax 441-296-6423).

Oleander Cycles, Valley Road, Paget plus locations throughout the island (☎ 441-236-5235).

Rockford Cycles, Glebe Road, Pembroke (☎ 441-292-1534).

Eve Cycles, St. George's (☎ 441-236-6247).

Taxis

While taking buses and ferries is fun, there is no question that taking a taxi is faster – but costly. Taxis are available throughout the island, with stands in Hamilton and St. George's. Resort hotels often have taxis waiting on the premises. Cabs are metered and the tariff is set by the government. There is no negotiating. Many taxis are mini-vans, which can accommodate one to six people. They are individually owned and invariably clean and well maintained.

It is common for restaurants to call taxis when you finish dining. Should you want to call a cab yourself, phone **Radio Cabs** at ☎ 295-4141 or **Bermuda Taxi Operators Co** at ☎ 292-5600. On the West End, call **Sandy's Taxi Service**, ☎ 234-2344.

Sightseeing Taxes

You can also hire a taxi by the hour or the day for sightseeing. Some taxis have "Blue Flags" attached to their hoods, which indicates that the driver has been certified as a tour guide. Your hotel can arrange for a "Blue-Flag" driver and there is no surcharge for the service.

The sightseeing rate is $30 per hour with a minimum of three hours. This is the rate for one to four passengers. Add $12 per hour for additional passengers. Sunday rates are 25% higher.

Other Means of Transport

Bicycles

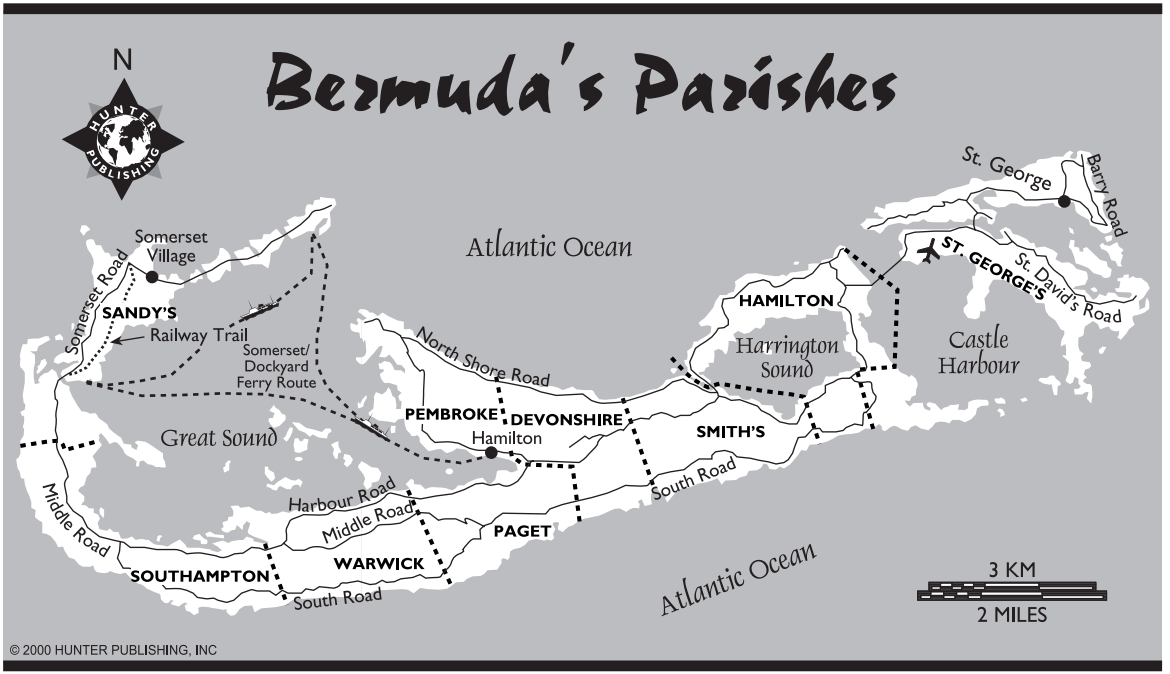
Bicycles, called pedal bikes here, are not very popular in Bermuda. The roads are narrow, winding and hilly. They are also crowded with motorized vehicles. The exception is Sandy's Parish on the island's west end. This part of Bermuda is less developed and quite flat. You often see people on bicycles here. A pleasant alternative to cycling on the road is to ride along "The Railway Trail" (see *Sunup to Sundown*), which has several sections throughout the island.

Many of the cycle rental shops also rent bicycles. Most appear to be mountain bikes, but we did spy some three- and ten-speed models as well. Helmets are included in the rental fee, which ranges from $10-15 per day. There are also weekly rates. If you plan to rent a bike, you make arrangements in advance, since their number is limited.

Horse-Drawn Carriages

Okay – we're pushing it by including this in means of transport, but it is very relaxing and is quite romantic after dark. You'll see the "horse stand" on Front Street near Passenger Terminal 1. The most popular route follows Pitts Road along the seashore, but there are other options. Occasionally you'll see a horse-drawn carriage in Paget or Southampton.

Most carriages carry one to four people, but some, drawn by two horses, can carry up to six people. Expect to pay $22 per half-hour. There is a surcharge for more than four people.


Bermuda's Parishes
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
Somerset Village
Somerset Road
SANDY'S
Railway Trail
Somerset/ Dockyard Ferry Route
Atlantic Ocean
North Shore Road
PEMBROKE
DEVONSHIRE
Hamilton
SMITH'S
HAMILTON
Harrington Sound
Castle Harbour
ST. GEORGE'S
St. George
Barry Road
St. David's Road
Great Sound
Harbour Road
Middle Road
Middle Road
PAGET
WARWICK
SOUTHAMPTON
South Road
South Road
Atlantic Ocean
3 KM
2 MILES
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Orientation

Although Bermudians will tell you that the "Bermudas" are comprised of 365 islands in all, most of them are tiny, uninhabited and unnamed. Eight closely-knit islands, connected by bridges and causeways, make up what most of us of consider to be the real "Bermuda." A score of others, unconnected, and with tiny populations, lie in one of the three large bodies of water surrounding them. Resembling a shepherd's crook from the air and over 650 miles from the nearest landfall, the islands stretch for 22 miles east to west in the Atlantic Ocean and are less than two miles wide at their broadest point. Over 60,000 people make their home in the Bermudas. "St. George's Island" and "St. David's Island" are at the eastern end of the land strip. A common causeway connects them to "Great Bermuda Island," the largest and most populated island in the Bermudas.

At the widest part of Great Bermuda Island, "Harrington Sound" is encircled by a narrow band of land, which then branches into two broad forks edging "Great Sound." Hamilton, the capital, is on the shorter northern fork, which fronts Hamilton Harbour. The southern fork narrows as it curves around the sound. The curve is continued by the five islands known as the "The West End," namely Somerset, Watford and Boaz Islands, followed by Ireland Island South and Ireland Island North.

Since 1616, Bermuda has been divided into nine parishes (historically called tribes). The names of the parishes are more important than those of the islands since addresses refer to them. Each parish measures 1,250 acres and is named for one of the largest shareholders in the Somers Island Company, later the Ber-

muda Company, that settled Bermuda. The parishes are as follows (east to west):

- St. George's
- Hamilton (not the capital)
- Smith's
- Devonshire
- Pembroke
- Paget
- Warwick
- Southampton
- Sandy's

Each parish has places of interest to visit and you'll find yourself exploring virtually all of them when you go to the beaches, parks, historic buildings and shops that dot Bermuda. The Key parishes for visitors, however, are **Pembroke**, where Hamilton, the island's capital, is located, **St. George's**, which houses the town of the same name and is the historic capital, and **Sandy's**, where you'll find the Royal Naval Dockyard. The majority of Bermuda's fine hotels, loveliest beaches and parks are in the South Shore parishes of Paget, Warwick and Southampton.

Four main roads run east to west across the parishes. Their names are self-explanatory: **North Shore Road, Middle Road, South Road** and **Harbour Road**, which circles Great Sound. Many north-south roads connect these main roads within each parish.

Additionally, you'll see signs that point to "**Tribe Roads**," which were the original roads set out by the survey that created the parishes. These were traversed on horseback and by cart or on foot. Although they are not wide enough for autos nor paved for mo-

torbikes, you can hike along some. But beware – many are dead ends.

We'll touch on each parish here, pinpointing the highlights. You'll find more detail in *Sunup to Sundown*.

St. George's Parish

St. George's and **St. David's Islands**, along with a number of small islands in Castle Harbour, comprise this parish at Bermuda's eastern tip. The **airport** is on St. David's. Your visit to the historic town of St. George's will be a highlight of your trip. First settled in the early 1600s, it was the capital of Bermuda until 1815. Lovingly restored, its buildings, churches, streets and waterfront are much as they were in the 17th century. It is both enjoyable and enlightening to walk through the small town, which is quite small. There are several restaurants and a waterfront shopping area. **Tucker's Town**, the most exclusive residential area in Bermuda, is also part of this parish, although it is on a promontory south of Castle Harbour. The exclusive and private **Mid-Ocean Golf Course** is in town. Or, you can play 18 holes at the nearby **Castle Harbour Golf Club** or **St. George's Golf Club**. Both are public. You can swim at **Achilles Bay** or at **Tobacco Bay**, where the snorkeling is both easy and fun.

Hamilton Parish

Named for the 17th-century nobleman Henry Hamilton, an original member of the Somers Island Company, and not Governor Hamilton for whom the capital is named, Hamilton Parish encircles **Har-**

rington Sound. **Bailey's Bay**, home of the famed Swizzle Inn, is located on its northeastern tip. At the nearby **Bermuda Perfumery** you can learn how local flowers are made into perfume. Here too are the Crystal Caves, where a subterranean world of stalactites awaits you. On the northwest of the parish, **Flatt's Inlet** is the only boat passage from Harrington Sound to the Atlantic. Flatt's Village, home to the Bermuda Aquarium, Natural History Museum and Zoo, is also in this area (see below). **Shelly Bay Park and Beach** near Flatt's Inlet are perfect for young children and those who are not expert swimmers.

It was at this watering hole that the potent Rum Swizzle was created.

Smith's Parish

Named for Sir Thomas Smith, this parish is home to **Flatt's Village**, one of only three villages on the island. It sits on the waterfront facing Flatt's Inlet. There are lovely homes on the hillsides surrounding the inlet, including **Verdmont**, a 17th-century mansion and museum located on Collector's Hill. Both it and the nearby **Spittal Pond Nature Reserve**, the largest wildlife sanctuary in Bermuda, are part of Bermuda's National Trust. Marine attractions include the marina, a favorite among weekend sailors, and Devil's Hole, a natural aquarium on the southern shore of Harrington Sound, which is especially popular with the younger set. The long sandy strip at **John Smith's Bay** is the only public beach in Smith's Parish.

Devonshire Parish

Named for the first Earl of Devonshire, this parish has few specific attractions for visitors, but is an attractive part of Bermuda nonetheless, with green

hills, nature reserves and one lovely old church on Middle Road. The **Ocean View Golf Course** is here.

Pembroke Parish

Named for the Earl of Pembroke, this parish is home to Bermuda's capital, **Hamilton**, and one-quarter of the population. Hamilton is a picturesque town with pastel-painted buildings and lots of upscale shops. Front Street, the main street, faces the harbour. It has lots of restaurants. There are restored historic buildings and impressive government buildings nearby and a charming in-town greenerie called **Par-la-Ville Gardens**. Narrow alleys connect Front Street to the second street, Reid, where you'll find more shops, restaurants and even a shopping mall. Nearby you'll want to visit the **Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute**, a 40,000-square-foot facility that depicts the wonders of the surrounding ocean using film, video, computers and interactive media. It is within walking distance of Hamilton center.

Paget Parish

Named for Lord Paget, this is the easternmost of the three south shore parishes that house Bermuda's finest beaches and parks. Paget has many fine hotels, including the famous Elbow Beach Resort, as well as many dining spots. The public beach, which is adjacent to the **Elbow Beach Resort**, is especially popular with body surfers. Be sure to visit the **Botanical Gardens** on South Road at Point Finger. The local flowers are especially stunning and the grounds are magnificently maintained. **Camden House**, the official residence of Bermuda's premier, is also here.

Warwick Parish

Named for the Earl of Warwick, Warwick Parish fronts Great Sound to the north and the Atlantic on its southern side. The north shore is primarily residential, with lovely old homes on the nearby hills. Just off shore you'll see **Darrell Island**, the site of Bermuda's first airport. During the Second World War it served as a refueling station and was home to the "trappers," a counter-espionage service (see *History*). Warwick's south shore has some of Bermuda's finest beaches, including **Warwick Long Bay**, which stretches for more than a half-mile. Because the sand strip is long and straight you can see its pink tinge clearly. Protected by reefs, the water is usually calm. There is a horseback-riding trail between the beach and the rocky cliffs near South Road. At the Warwick-Southampton border you'll find **Jobson's Cove**, a tiny secluded beach circled by rocky cliffs. It's a popular spot for nude bathing, but only by moonlight since nude swimming is not permitted. There are a few small beaches at **Astwood Park**, a stunning park with picnic tables and lots of trees, flowers and shrubs. **Riddell's Bay Golf and Country Club**, on a narrow peninsula in Great Sound, is Bermuda's oldest golf course. Although private, non-members can play with a member and some hotels have guest privileges. The **Belmont Golf and Country Club**, a public course, continues to operate even though the Belmont Hotel is closed. As we go to press, no plans have been finalized, but a hotel-villa combination will probably be constructed on the site.

Southampton Parish

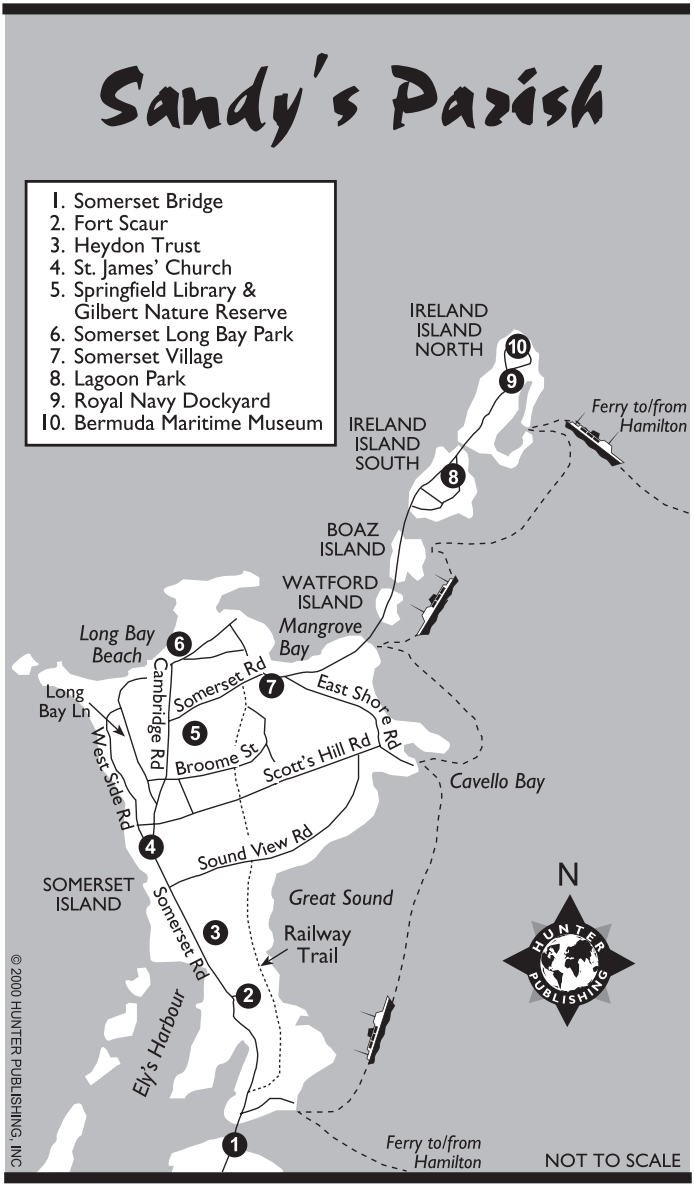
The Earl of Southampton would scarcely recognize his parish today for it is home to several of Bermuda's finest resort hotels and outstanding dining options. Here too are stunning beaches and parks. Adjoining Jobson's Cove and also part of South Shore Park, are **Chaplin** and **Stonehole Bays**, tiny secluded beaches whose sand often disappears at high tide. Stonehole is marked by a dramatic 10-foot-high coral wall. Heading west you'll find **Horseshoe Bay**, Bermuda's most popular beach. It has a wide sand strip and is one of the few beaches with lifeguards, sand and surfboard rentals. Southampton is also home to **Gibbs Hill Lighthouse**, which was built in 1845 after innumerable shipwrecks around these islands. The view from the top is lovely. Virtually the entire south shore is lined with public parks and beaches, which, considering how small Bermuda is, tells you a lot about priorities here. **Port Royal Golf Course** is on the shore at the western edge of the parish.

Sandy's Parish (Somerset)

Sandy's Parish is often called Somerset.

The locals refer to this parish, named for Sir Edwin Sandy, as "the country" and indeed it is less crowded and less developed than the rest of Bermuda. Little fishing villages, small farms and rugged coastlines characterize the five islands that comprise Sandy's. Somerset , the largest of the five islands, is named for George Somers, the man credited for settling Bermuda.

Don't miss the Royal Naval Dockyard at the western tip of Ireland Island North. It served as the naval base for the Royal Navy, but now sports a terrific maritime museum, a lively craft market, art galleries, a small



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shopping mall, several restaurants and a movie theater. Other stops in Sandy's should include Heydon Trust, 43 acres of undeveloped countryside with stunning views of Great Sound and the land surrounding it. It has a busy bird sanctuary, citrus orchards, banana groves, flower gardens, walkways and a tiny chapel that dates to 1620. You can snorkel, swim, hike, fish or picnic at Somerset Long Bay Park and Nature Reserve which is right on the ocean and boasts the longest beach in Bermuda.

A Concise History

The discovery of Bermuda is attributed to the Spanish navigator Juan de Bermudez, who visited the islands in 1515 in his ship, *La Garza* (The Heron).

Spain took no steps to establish a settlement nor to confirm sovereignty over the islands. However, in 1527, King Philip II granted one of the islands to a Portuguese adventurer, Ferdinando Camelo, who promised to establish a settlement within four years. Although there is no record of settlement, locals believe the monogram and cross on Spanish Rock in Smith's Parish was made by Camelo in 1543.

First Arrivals

In 1593, a French vessel was shipwrecked on the reefs northwest of the island. Shipwrecks were not uncommon due to the treacherous reefs encircling the islands. In fact, many sailors called them "Isles of the Devil." Aboard the French ship was the Englishman, Henry May. He and a few others made it to shore, where they found wild hogs, a sign that others had been there before them. May and his companions con-

structed a small boat and five months later set sail for Newfoundland. Upon his return to England, May published an account of his adventures and made known for the first time that Bermuda was not one body of land, but instead a group of islands.

In 1609, another shipwreck, this time more fortuitous than its predecessors, led to the colonization of Bermuda by Great Britain. In that year the **Virginia Company of London** dispatched its third expedition to its American colony in a fleet of nine vessels led by Admiral Sir George Somers, Capt. Christopher Newport and Sir Thomas Gates, the deputy general of the colony. More than 500 colonists, including women and children, were aboard the *Sea Venture*, when a storm separated them from the others. The ship was badly damaged and, despite all their efforts, it was clear it would founder. As they raised their glasses for a final toast, Sir George spied land, and a few minutes later the *Sea Venture* was wedged between two rocks off the east end of St. George's Island. The spot is still called Sea Venture Flatts.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

An account of this shipwreck, written by one of the passengers, was read by William Shakespeare and is said to have inspired his play *The Tempest.*

Once again the wild hogs provided food, as did turtles, birds and fish. Although many of the passengers would gladly have stayed on the islands, the leaders insisted on continuing their voyage. They proceeded to construct two ships of native cedar and all set sail for Virginia. They had been on Bermuda for 10 months. During that time two children were born, a boy named Bermudez and a girl named Bermuda,

who was the daughter of John Rolfe. Bermuda died soon thereafter, as did Rolfe's wife – which left him free to marry Pocahontas in later years.

When they arrived in Jamestown, the colonists found horrific conditions, with only 60 half-starved survivors of the 500 who had been living in Jamestown just six months earlier. Admiral Somers volunteered to return to Bermuda and to establish a permanent colony there to supply Jamestown with food. Unfortunately, Somers died shortly after returning to Bermuda. A monument to him stands in **Somers Garden**. His body was returned to England and all but three colonists returned with him.

Upon their return, Somers' companions published glowing reports about the islands and thus interest was created, especially among those involved with the Virginia colony. Their original charter gave them jurisdiction over all the islands within 100 miles of the Virginia mainland. Because the Bermudas were beyond the 100-mile limit, the Virginia Company requested and received an additional grant to include those islands. Interest rose as these islands, despite their evil reputation, became the new Eldorado.

In 1612, **Richard Moore** was sent by the Virginia Company to be the first governor of Bermuda. He and 60 settlers landed on the southern shore of Smith's Island in July and established a settlement, which predates Plymouth by eight years. The colony was soon moved to the site of the present town of St. George's. Moore laid out the streets as instructed by the Virginia Company. Every street opened into a central market (it is much the same today). He erected the first church, using cedar timber, and when that was blown down he built another on the sheltered spot that is still occupied by St. Peter's Church. Moore then busied himself building eight forts to protect

against an invasion that never came. The forts guarded St. George's Harbour on the east and Castle Harbour on the south.

Many of the forts still stand today.

In 1613, the Virginia Company sold their rights to a sub-company, the **Somers Island Company**, for 2000 pounds. Two years later, King James granted a charter of incorporation to this sub-company. Among the charter members were Henry, Earl of Southampton, William, Earl of Pembroke, William, Lord of Paget and Sir Edwin Sandys. These names survive today in the names of Bermuda's parishes.

A Developing Colony

In 1616, a surveyor, **Richard Norwood**, was dispatched by the Company with instructions to divide the islands into eight tribes (now parishes). Eight of the largest shareholders were awarded large grants of land, which they were permitted to name. They subdivided their "tribe" into "shares," which were plots of land leased to settlers. The land around St. George's, the capital, was to remain public. Norwood eventually prepared a second survey, which showed each plot and tribe definitively.

Captain Daniel Tucker, the first governor under the new charter, arrived in Bermuda. It was during his term that tobacco was planted as were figs, pineapples, sugar cane, plantains and paw paws. It was also during his term that slaves – blacks from Africa and the West Indies as well as American Indians – were brought to the colony. Due to the lack of rivers or fresh water on Bermuda, agriculture was not highly successful and so there were no plantations for the slaves to work on. Rather than work in the fields, the slaves worked in the homes and businesses of the colonists. Many learned to be tradesmen or skilled craftsmen.

The colonists tired of Tucker's harsh rule and demanded a new governor. **Nathaniel Butler** arrived with new settlers. During his term, three bridges were built to connect some of the principal islands. Fed up with the restrictions set forth by the Somers Company, the colonists sued successfully for crown colony status. The first meeting of the local General Assembly was held in 1620 and from this event Bermuda claims to be the oldest self-governing body in the British Empire. By 1630, the population numbered about 3,000. At that time most were of English origin, but slaves began arriving in increasing numbers and, by 1749, made up 55% of the population.

In 1788, Henry Hamilton was appointed governor and it was during his term that a new capital was built. The town of Hamilton became the seat of government in 1815.

Shipbuilding in the 18th and early 19th centuries enabled Bermudians to trade abroad, with their ships sailing from St. George's Harbour and the Royal Naval Dockyard. By this time, potatoes and particularly onions had replaced tobacco as the islands' main crop. So crucial did the onion crop become that Portuguese immigrants were allowed to enter the country to work in the fields. Bermudians of Portuguese ancestry account for 10% of today's population.

Long-time Bermudians even call themselves "Onions."

The War Years

During the American Revolution and the War of 1812, Bermudians found themselves with divided loyalties, but in the end remained loyal to the British. In 1814, the British Navy sailed from Bermuda to attack and burn Washington DC and the White House.

During the American Civil War, Bermuda enjoyed great prosperity as a source of arms for both sides.

When the war ended, so did the prosperity and Bermuda was forced to look for other sources of income. With its stunning beaches and proximity to the US, tourism became a primary income source. In those days the islands were popular with wealthy travelers, including members of the Royal Family, who spent the gentle winters there.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

One long-time guest was Queen Victoria's daughter Louise. In 1884, the Princess Hotel in Hamilton was named in her honor.

During World War II, Bermuda played a key role in counter-espionage for the Allies. The Princess Hotel housed a carefully trained staff that decoded radio signals from German submarines in the Atlantic. Bermuda was also a refueling stop for airplanes flying between the two continents.

TRAPPERS

While the crews rested, the mail they carried was opened and read for hidden messages. The mail was then resealed for delivery. The "trappers," as these agents became known, were primarily young women. One of their success stories was the retrieval of 270 Impressionist paintings stolen by the Nazis from France.

Self-Government

In 1957, after two centuries of occupation, Britain agreed to grant self-government to its oldest colony.

As the Bermudians assumed greater control of their lives, they adopted significant social changes. Although slavery was abolished in 1834, it was not until 1959 that racial segregation in hotels and restaurants ended and not until 1971 that schools were integrated. Only property owners could vote until 1963, when voting was open to all citizens. Although Bermuda experienced some rioting in the 1960s and the governor was assassinated in the 1970s, the social and political climate has been remarkably calm.

In a 1995 referendum, the vast majority of Bermudians chose to continue their association with Britain. In 1997, the **United Bermuda Party**, which had governed for many years, selected Pamela Gordon as premier, the first woman to hold that office. In 1999, the **Progressive Labour Party** was elected and selected **Jennifer Smith** as premier.

Modern Times

Today, while the economy of Bermuda remains tied to tourism, international business has come to surpass tourism as the country's major foreign currency earner. Many Fortune 500 companies, including major players in the insurance industry, have established offices here to take advantage of the favorable tax laws.

This history is far from complete. If you want to read about Bermuda, look for *The Story of Bermuda and her People* by local historian William Zuill. Now in its third edition, the book is sold in local bookstores.

Flora & Fauna

Trees & Flowers

With its temperate climate, sunny days, fertile soil and sufficient rainfall, Bermuda is a gardener's paradise. The cedar forests that greeted the earliest settlers were badly damaged – first by overuse and then blight. A reforestation program has been successful. The ever-resourceful Bermudians imported species of trees from other parts of the far-flung British Empire. Many flourished. Today you'll see Australian pines, paw-paws, royal poinsettias, loquats and the island's only native palm, the palmetto. Beaches are dotted with sea grape trees. Banana trees were introduced in 1616, as were Bermuda's famed onions. Originally grown from seeds imported from England, today's red and white onion varieties are grown from Tenerife and Madeira seeds. You'll be struck by the flowering shrubs and vines, many of them from the West Indies and US. Bermudian hibiscus, morning glory, oleander, bougainvillea and poinsettia decorate private gardens, rolling hillsides and nature reserves and parks.

Land Animals

Because of its geographic isolation and lack of freshwater, Bermuda has few indigenous mammals or reptiles. You'll hear, rather than see, the tiny brown tree frogs that serenade each night (April-November) and if you walk along the railway trail you'll spot lizards sunning themselves on rocks. All harmless, they will scurry away when they hear you.

There are no snakes in Bermuda.

Bermuda has many beautiful birds, particularly in the cooler months when the island is a popular stop for migrating birds. Some are from the Arctic Circle. You'll spot cardinals, kiskadees, Eastern bluebirds and longtail tropic birds.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

Believed extinct, Bermuda petrels were rediscovered in 1951 and are now protected by the government.

Marine Life

Life in the sea is abundant. Some of the world's finest game fish are found nearby. They include black fin tuna, swordfish, wahoo, barracuda and pompano.

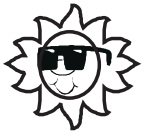
⚠ WARNING

Take note of the Portuguese man-o-war in the shallow waters. They pack a painful sting so give them space even if they appear dead when they are washed ashore.

Where to See What

The **Botanical Gardens on South Road**, Paget is a good stop for an overview of Bermuda's flora. ☎ 236-5291 for hours. The **Bermuda Aquarium, Natural History Museum and Zoo**, North Shore Road, Hamilton Parish, is detailed in *Sunup to Sundown*.

Sunup to Sundown



Although you can enjoy Bermuda year-round, the majority of visitors, thinking sun and sand, arrive between April and October. This is Bermuda's high season, when the temperatures of both the air and water combine to make Bermuda an active-vacation paradise.

When you imagine what your days on Bermuda will be like, first think water. The Atlantic Ocean's rolling waves, an easily accessible, pristine coral reef and three tranquil lagoons make Bermuda a water playground. Snorkeling, windsurfing, water skiing, sailing, jet skiing, fishing and kite skiing are all readily available. There are scores of exciting dive spots nearby, including scores of shipwrecks. Helmut diving is popular, as are glass-bottom boat excursions for non-swimmers.

Then think sand. Bermuda's signature pink-sand beaches dot the coast. Some are short patches wedged between rocky cliffs that virtually disappear at high tide, while others appear to be endless pink ribbons. Most are undeveloped. Those within park grounds can be explored on foot, on horseback or on a bicycle.

If you prefer land-based sports, you'll have lots of company, particularly on Bermuda's renowned golf courses. Over 100 tennis courts, with a variety of surfaces, dot the island and squash is also an option. Leave time to jog or hike along the Railway Trail or to bicycle along the tranquil roads on Bermuda's West End.

Preservation

Bermuda has been very active in preserving its environment. Over 1,000 acres have been set aside for parks, nature reserves and beaches – an incredible number when you think of how small Bermuda is.

From November through March, the air and water temperatures fall into the 60s. For Bermudians who don't venture into the water after September or before May, it is time to unpack the long pants. Many water-based sports are curtailed, although some dive operators offer diving with wet suits. You can swim in the heated pools that many hotels feature. All the land-based sports continue to flourish off-season. In an effort to lure more off-season visitors, Bermuda's Tourist Board has organized walks, sports tournaments and special events – and hotel prices fall as well.

Sightseeing is rewarding year-round. There are two picturesque towns to explore and the restored Naval Dockyard is a must. Bermuda has interesting museums and many historic sites that are fun to visit. Because the island has such a long history and is so small, there is hardly a spot that was not of historic importance at one time or another. Bermuda's Tourist Board has published brochures to virtually all of them. We'll tell you which ones deserve your special attention and then list other options for those with special interests.

You'll want to leave time to shop for jewelry, china and resort wear and to enjoy a leisurely lunch overlooking the busy harbor.

Key Bus Routes

You can reach virtually every beach and sight detailed here on the public bus system. There may be a short walk from the stop. To that end, we have listed key bus route numbers below. Pick up the bus schedule published by the Visitor's Service Bureau as well.

Destination	Route #
Airport	#1, 3, 10, 11
Astwood Cove	#7, 8
Aquarium and Zoo	#10, 11
Botanical Gardens	#1, 2, 7
Church Bay	#7, 8
Crystal Caves	#1, 3
Dockyard (Maritime Museum)	#7, 8
Elbow Beach	#2, 7
Flatt's Village	#10, 11
Gibb's Hill Lighthouse	#7
Horseshoe Bay Beach	#7
Perfumery	#10, 11
John Smith's Bay	#1
Shelly Bay Beach	#10, 11
Spittal Pond	#1, 3
Somerset Long Bay	#7, 8
Tobacco Bay	#10, 11
Verdmont	#1
Warwick Long Bay	#7

Keep in mind that all buses leave from and return to the bus station in Hamilton.

Watersports

Beaches

Beach-hopping is a popular and pleasant activity on an island with 21 square miles and over 34 public beaches. Scattered through the island, they are beautiful as well, with soft pink-tinged sand flecked with bits of broken shells and coral. A necklace of reefs protects the coastline from rough surf, but you can still enjoy the ocean waves along the south shore, where the beaches are more plentiful and scenic then those on the north shore. The waters that surround Bermuda are crystal clear and from a distance appear turquoise. Between the sand strips and South Shore Road, are a series of nature trails that you can bike or jog. You can even ride horseback here.

Boilers

Unique phenomena close to the shoreline and visible from the beaches are low circular outcrops of rock. They are known here as "boilers." The water swirls over them because the waves have partially hollowed out the inner soft rock. The proper name for them is Serpulive Atoll or Algal-Vermeted Reefs. These mini-whirlpools are great for snorkelers since many colorful fish feed and shelter near them.

North Shore Beaches lie primarily on the island's east end. They offer deep-water swimming and snorkeling, body surfing and lots of secluded coves and rock pools.

Happily, Bermuda's beaches are undeveloped. Only a few have rental facilities or even food. Only two have lifeguards in-season. Bring a blanket or sand chair, a picnic lunch and lots of lotion. Private beaches fronting hotels are for hotel guests only. Some hotels allow non-guests to use the facilities and rent gear for a fee.

North Shore Beaches

Tobacco Bay is near the town of St. George and is a favorite beach for snorkeling. A Club Med, now closed, was located nearby. Its beach strip is wide and open, but is sheltered by coral-sided coves. You can walk out to see coral formations and snorkel over shellfish, corals, sea fans and sea rods close to shore. If cruise ship passengers descend on the beach, you can walk to **Fort St. Catherine** and its beach. The **Tobacco Bay Beach House** on Naval Tank Hill has changing rooms, bathrooms and a snack bar. Kiosks nearby rent gear and also have food. Bus #10 or #11 to St. George.

Shelly Bay is off North Shore Road in Hamilton. The beach is very popular with families because there is a playground and trees to provide shade. The beach house rents lounge chairs, snorkel equipment and other items you might need. There are restrooms. Bus #10 or #11.

South Shore Beaches

SOUTH SHORE PARK. On an island with lovely beaches, this park runs for 1½ miles. There are 11 distinct beaches in the park that runs through Warwick Parish into Southampton. The beaches vary in size and in appeal. Some small ones virtually disappear

during high tides. You can't walk from one to the other along the sand since rock cliffs divide them, but you can walk along the nature trails behind the sand. The beaches within the park are Port Royal, Horseshoe Bay, Peel Bay, Butts, Muddle, Wafer Rocks, Angle, Hidden, Chaplin Bay, Jobson's Cove and Warwick Long Bay.

Warwick Long Bay is rightly named for its half-mile strip. Although open and exposed to frequent winds, the waves are normally moderate due to the offshore reef. Look for the coral island about 200 feet from shore. There are restrooms, but no rentals. A lunch wagon normally parks at the main road.

Horseshore Bay Beach is the most popular beach in the park. Crescent-shaped, it is where Bermudian families spend sunny afternoons and weekends. One of its lures is the beach house, with changing rooms, toilets, beach gear rentals and a snack shop. Hours are 10 am-7 pm. Lifeguard in-season.

Walking east from Horseshoe you'll find three smaller secluded coves. **Chaplin Bay, Jobson's Cove** and **Stonehole Bay** have high waves and the sand disappears at high tide. Stonehole is marked by a 10-foot-high coral wall that crosses the beach into the water. It has an arrowhead-shaped hole at its core. No facilities. Bus #7 from Hamilton.

Dinty's lunch wagon is a fixture here.

Elbow Beach, a wide sand strip, is very popular with Bermudians and is the prime hangout for Spring Break students. There's good swimming and body surfing. It can get crowded and noisy. This public beach is adjacent to the private beach that fronts Elbow Beach Resort. The entrance is from Tribe Road #4 just past the hotel entrance.

Elbow Beach Hotel does allow non-guests to use their beach facilities and water sports rentals for a fee. Paddleboats, kayaks and snorkel gear are in demand.

Look for the old fort at Church Bay.

Church Bay is farther west in Southampton Parish. A tiny, beautiful beach with deep pink sand, it is a great place to sunbathe. The offshore reefs keep the water calm and are great lures for marine life, so many snorkelers head here. Toilets, but no other facilities. Bus #7 or #8 from Hamilton. Handicapped-accessible.

West Whale Bay in Sandy's Parish is a tiny, very pink beach that lies beneath a ruined fort. It was named when Bermuda still had a flourishing whaling industry and, in the spring, whales can be seen migrating along their ancient routes offshore. No facilities. Bus #7 from Hamilton.

John Smith's Bay was named for John Smith of the Virginia colony. This is one of a handful of south shore beaches on Bermuda's east end and it's the only public beach in Smith's Parish. As you would expect, it gets crowded with Bermudian families and it is also a teen social center. But the sand strip is long and wide so you can always find a quiet spot. Good snorkeling here. There are toilets and changing facilities and a lifeguard in-season. A lunch wagon serves sandwiches and drinks. Bus #1 from Hamilton.

Devonshire Bay, a calm, sheltered and nearly hidden cove, has gentle waves and fascinating wading pools that little children will love. Weekdays, local fisherman anchor here to sell their daily catch. Centrally located. Bus #1 from Hamilton.

Scuba Diving – Wrecks n' Reef

Bermuda is widely regarded as one of the world's best scuba diving destinations. Although its reef may not be as well known as some in the Caribbean, it is pristine and easily accessible, plus the island is circled by an astonishing number of shipwrecks.

For over 400 years ships have accidentally collided with the 200 square miles of coral reef that encircle these tiny islands. One wreck was fortuitous, for when the *Sea Venture* washed onto St. George, it led to the colonization of Bermuda. Nor was the *Sea Venture* the first to founder here (remember those hogs!). Over 300 ships have met their match nearby and local dive operators have charted the location of each. Every dive shop on the island displays a large-scale map that shows what sank, where and when. Some wreck sites are strewn with ancient cannons and lost cargo, while others are fully intact modern freighters.

At some sites, the wrecks are virtually side-by-side, allowing divers to explore several on one dive.

Bermuda's wreck collection includes a luxury ocean liner, several steel-hulled freighters, a chic motor-yacht, two civil war paddlewheel blockade runners, schooners, British warships and a 16th-century Spanish treasure galleon. Over 40 wrecks are safe enough to be visited by the 40-foot dive boats that operate here.

Some of the Most Visited Wrecks

The ***Constellation***, a 200-foot American schooner loaded with cargo that sank off the western reef in 1943.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lying at 30 feet and surrounded by dishes, bottles and glassware, the wreck of the *Constellation* inspired Peter Benchley's film, *The Deep*.

The ***Montana***, near the *Constellation*, was a 236-foot side-paddlewheel steamer built in England. It sank in 1863 while attempting to run the Union blockade during the Civil War.

The ***Minnie Breslauer***, a 300-foot steel-hulled freighter sank on her maiden voyage, January 1, 1873. En route from Madeira to New York with a cargo of wine and fruit, it sank in 60 feet of water near Horseshoe Bay.

L'Hermine, a French 60-gun Man-of-War, sank in 1838. Resting in 30 feet of water, its nine-foot-long cannons are still onboard.

Bermuda's largest wreck, ***Cristobal Colon***, a 499-foot Spanish luxury liner, sank in 1936 in 55 feet of water. Its six boilers are still visible.

A number of underwater caverns are part of the reef system. Arches, crags, canyons and tunnels comprise a maze-like formation that is home to schools of fish as well as grouper, tarpon and spiny lobsters. Excursions frequently visit **Cathedral Cavern**, **Hole in the Wall** and **The Southwest Breaker**.

The Dive Season

Although you can dive here year-round (water temperature hovers around 65° from November through February), the best months are April through October when the sea is calm and the water temperatures

In April and May, humpback whales often share the waters with you.

moderate. The water clarity is crystalline and visibility can reach 150-200 feet.

Dive Operators & Programs

Bermuda's dive operators are reliable and well organized. They are inspected and certified on an annual basis by the government. They offer beginning classes as well as certification courses. There are one-tank (1½ hours) and two-tank (three hours) dives daily and several offer night dives. They rent equipment, including video cameras. All offer wreck and reef dives. Many of the dive operators have offices at the resort hotels. Check with your concierge or with the highly regarded operators below.

The area code is 441 if calling from outside Bermuda.

Blue Water Divers
at Elbow Beach and Castle Harbour Hotels
☎ 234-1034
E-mail: bwdivers@ibl.bm
Open year-round

Fantasea Diving
at Darrell's Wharf, Paget
☎ 236-6339
E-mail: info@fantasea.bm
Closed February/March

Nautilus Diving Ltd.
at Hamilton & Southhampton Princess Hotels
☎ 238-2332
E-mail: nautilus@ibl.bm
Open year-round

Scuba Look at Grotto Bay Hotel
☎ 293-7319
E-mail: scubaluk@ibl.bm
Closed January/February

South Side Scuba Watersports
at Sonesta Beach Hotel
☎ 238-1833
E-mail: southside@ibl.bm
Closed February/March

There is a decompression chamber at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital.

Helmut Diving

Helmut diving is very popular here. It offers non-swimmers the chance to see and walk by the coral reefs and feed the colorful fish – so tame they eat right from your hand. Wear a bathing suit. The helmut, fed air through hoses connected to the boat, is placed on your head as you descend into the water. Tours are led by experienced guides and participants range from age 6 to 80. The trip lasts about three hours (one hour in the water). Wet suits are provided when the water temperature falls below 80°. The season runs from April 1 through November 31.

Bermuda Bell Diving
Flatts Village, Smith's
☎ 292-4434

Greg Hartley's Under Sea Adventure
Watford Bridge, Somerset
☎ 234-2861

Snorkeling & Snorkel/Sightseeing Cruises

If you have your own snorkel gear, you can head to those island beaches with near-shore reefs to enjoy the coral and marine life. Snorkel gear is easy to rent. Beaches with good snorkeling include **Church Bay** (Southampton), **Tobacco Bay** (St. George), **John**

Smith's Bay (Smith's) and tiny **West Whale Bay** (Southampton). Off-season snorkelers should head to **Harrington Sound** or **Castle Harbour**, where the waters are more sheltered. You'll find coral formations, underwater caves and grottos and brightly colored schools of fish.

Some of the most pristine reefs are too far offshore to reach without a boat so you can combine snorkeling with a relaxing day sail. Most snorkel cruises are half a day (three-plus hours). Although many of the dive operators combine snorkelers and divers, you'd be best served by joining a snorkel-only sail. Snorkel gear is provided, as is instruction.

Motor Yachts

Many snorkel cruise operators shut down from November through March. We'll note those that operate year-round.

Hayward's Snorkeling & Glass Bottom Boat Cruises
☎ 236-9894
Leaves from Hamilton Ferry Dock – three hours.

Jesse James Cruises
☎ 296-5801
Leaves from Albuoy's Point, Hamilton and Darrell's Wharf in Warwick – visits reefs and shipwrecks. Four hours.

Salt Kettle Yacht Charters
☎ 236-4863
Leaves from Salt Kettle, Paget – operates year-round.

Snorkel Look
☎ 293-7319
Leaves from Grotto Bay Hotel.

Bermuda Water Tours
☎ 236-1500
Leaves from Hamilton Ferry Dock.

Messaround Charters
☎ 297-8953
Leaves from Ordnance Island, St. George.

Blue Water Watersports
☎ 232-2911
Leaves Marriott Castle Harbour Hotel. Operates year-round.

Sailing Yachts

Many snorkel cruise operators shut down from November through March. We'll note those that operate year-round.

Allegro Charters
Barr's Bay Park, Hamilton
☎ 295-4074

Bermuda Caribbean Yacht Charters
Waterlot Inn, Southampton Princess Hotel
☎ 238-8578

Hat Trick Charters
Royal Naval Dockyard
☎ 235-5077

Perrah Yacht Charters
Barr's Bay Park
Hamilton and Darrell's Wharf, Paget
☎ 295-0060

Fishing

The waters around Bermuda are rich with game fish and catches here hold many world records. Over 650 species have been sighted and there are large schools of tuna and wahoo. Fishing is a year-round sport, but it's best from May through November. More than 20 captained charter boats operate here. All charter boats are skippered by a licensed captain and are equipped with fighting chairs, outriggers, tackle, bait and life-saving equipment.

You can try your hand at deep-sea fishing (offshore) for blue or white marlin, black-fin or yellow-fin tuna, great barracuda and dolphin fish among others. Or you might prefer reef fishing where you'll find gray and yellowtail snapper, amberjacks and assorted bottom fish.

You can also join Bermudians as they fish from beaches, docks and piers for bonefish, pompano and gray snapper.

The **Bermuda Sports Fishing Association** is comprised of three captains who specialize in deep-sea fishing. Booking office and information, ☎ 295-2370.

St. George Game Fishing Association is comprised of three captains who leave from the island's east end. They offer both deep-sea and reef fishing. Booking office and information, ☎ 297-8093.

Independent Captains

Eugene Barnes
St. David's Island
☎ 297-8015
Deep sea

David Wayne DeSilva
Pembroke Parish
☎ 235-8550
Fly and bone

Steven Rance
Paget Parish
☎ 236-3551
Reef and deep sea

Michael Buxter
Somerset Island
☎ 234-2963
Reef

Millard Simon
Sandy's Parish
☎ 234-1409
Reef and bone

Fishing Equipment Rentals

The **Bermuda Game Fishing Association** is at Box 1306 Hamilton, HMFX, Bermuda. They are very helpful.

Mangrove Marina
Robinson's Sports Center, Somerset
☎ 234-0914
Rental of rod, reel, etc. only with boat.

Windjammer Watersports
Royal Naval Dockyard
☎ 234-2050

Game Fishing Tournament

The tournament, run by the Department of Tourism, is open to all anglers. The season runs from April 1 through November. Register your catch and be eligible to win a prize.

Watersports Rentals

Chances are that your hotel's waterfront rental center will have the equipment you want, but some centers specialize and they are at the locations where the equipment can be best used. Specific gear such as jet skis or windsurfers are detailed below.

Self-Drive Boat Rentals

Rentals include Boston Whalers, Sunfish, paddleboats and Nauticas.

Mangrove Marina
Robinson's Sports Centre, Somerset Bridge
☎ 234-0914

Pompano Beach Club Watersports Centre, Southampton
☎ 234-0222

Windjammer Watersports
Cambridge Beaches, Somerset
☎ 234-3082

Blue Water Divers and Watersports
Marriott's Castle Harbour Hotel
☎ 234-1034

Water-Skiing

Bermuda law requires that water-skiers be taken out by a licensed skipper.

Water-skiing is best in the protected waters of Castle Harbour, Harrington Sound, Hamilton Harbour and Great Sound.

Options are limited, but the operators below are excellent. They offer instruction on a variety of skis and operate daily, weather permitting, from April through September.

Bermuda Water-Ski Center
Robinson's Marina, Somerset Bridge, Sandy's
☎ 234-3354

Blue Hole Water Sports
Grotto Bay Beach Hotel, Hamilton Parish
☎ 293-2915

Kiteskiing

If you can water-ski and are looking for a new adventure, try Kiteskiing, where you sit down on an air chair and ski behind a hydrofoil. **Kiteski Bermuda**, Harrington Sound, Smith's is the place to try. ☎ 293-1968.

Windsurfing

Windsurfing is not as popular here as it is throughout the Caribbean. Only a few locations offer windsurfing equipment and lessons.

Blue Hole Watersports
Grotto Bay Beach Hotel
☎ 293-2915

Calico Adventures
Flatt's Village
☎ 292-9302

Windjammer Watersports
Cambridge Beaches only
☎ 234-3082

Board Surfing

Board surfing is very popular, particularly during Spring Break. Great Sound, Elbow Beach, Shelly Bay and Somerset Long Bay are among the most popular locations. Wind is the key, of course, so check when you rent your board.

TIP

Rentals are the way to go since taxis will rarely allow boards and they are forbidden on buses.

Mangrove Marina
Robinson's Sports Centre, Somerset Bridge, Sandy's
☎ 234-0914

Pompano Beach Club Watersports Centre
Southampton
☎ 234-0222

Blue Hole Watersports
Marriott's Castle Harbour Hotel
☎ 293-2040

Para-Sailing

Skyrider Bermuda Ltd.
Royal Naval Dockyard, Sandy's
☎ 234-3019 (May through October)

St. George's Parasail Water Sports Ltd.
Somers Wharf, St. George's
☎ 297-1542 (May through October)

Fantasea Cruises Ltd.
Darrell's Wharf, Paget
☎ 236-1300 (April through October)

Jet Skiing

Mangrove Marina
Robinson's Sports Centre, Somerset Bridge, Sandy's
☎ 234-3145

Calm Ocean Watersports
Davenport Wharf, Water St., St. George's
☎ 297-1459

Blue Water, Divers & Watersports
Marriott's Castle Harbour
☎ 232-2911 ext. 6710

Kayak Tours

Kayaks (single or double) can be rented for leisurely paddling on your own or you can join an organized sightseeing or snorkeling tour.

Rentals

Windjammer Watersports
☎ 234-0250 Royal Naval Dockyard
☎ 234-3082 Cambridge Beaches

Tours

Mangrove Marina
Robinson's Sport Centre, Somerset Bridge, Sandy's
☎ 234-3145

Fantasea Cruises
Darrell's Wharf, Paget
☎ 236-1300 (April through November)

Blue Water Watersports
Elbow Beach, Paget
☎ 232-2909 ext. 8919 (Year-round)

Kayak Safari Ltd.
Ordnance Island, St. George's
☎ 297-4223

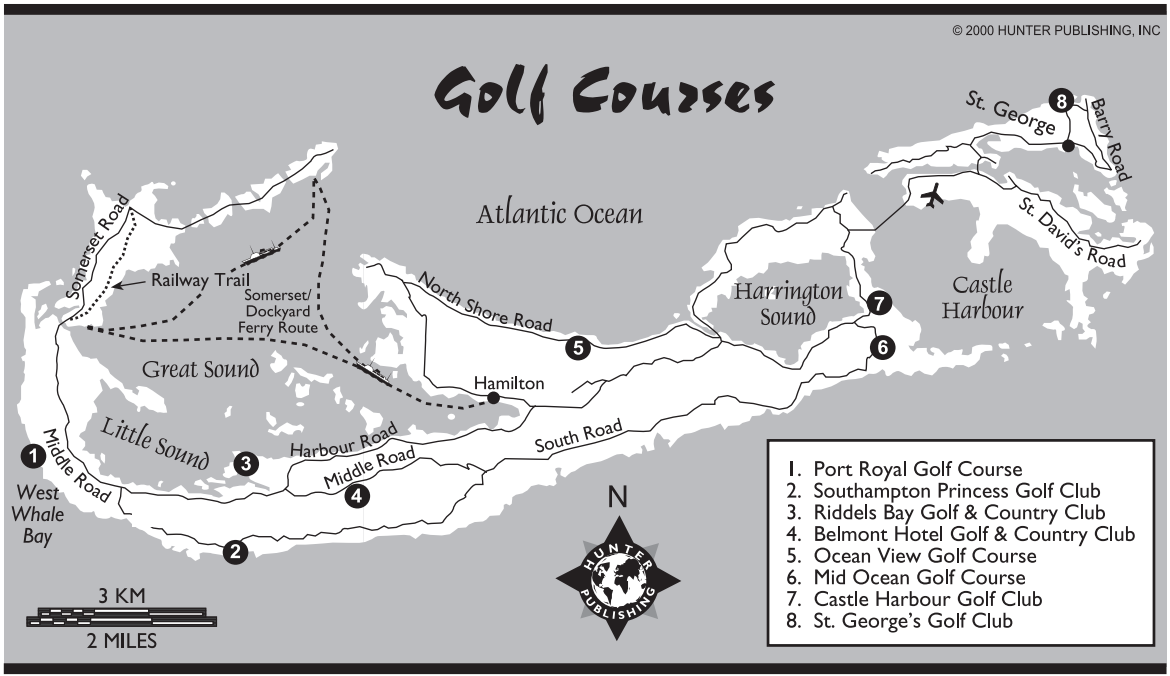
Sports on Land

Golf

Bermuda's golf courses are famous and there are so many of them that you never hear complaints about crowded conditions and slow play. The first course was laid out in 1922 and seven more have been added over the years. Additionally, many hotels have putting greens. Courses are both challenging and scenic. Although pars are short, many a duffer has encountered the Atlantic Ocean as a water hazard.

The Grass

The fairways and greens are firmer here than the soft, manicured ones you may be used to since the paucity


© 2000 HUNTER PUBLISHING, INC
Golf Courses
Atlantic Ocean
St. George
Barry Road
St. David's Road
Somerset Road
Railway Trail
Somerset/
Dockyard
Ferry Route
North Shore Road
Harrington
Sound
Castle
Harbour
Great Sound
Hamilton
Little Sound
Harbour Road
Middle Road
South Road
Middle Road
West
Whale
Bay
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
3 KM
2 MILES
1. Port Royal Golf Course
2. Southampton Princess Golf Club
3. Riddels Bay Golf & Country Club
4. Belmont Hotel Golf & Country Club
5. Ocean View Golf Course
6. Mid Ocean Golf Course
7. Castle Harbour Golf Club
8. St. George's Golf Club

of water on the island leads to minimal irrigation. Greens are elevated and protected by sand traps rather than thick grass. The traps are filled with pink limestone sand from pulverized seashells. The wind can also play havoc with your shots since it is unpredictable from day to day, even hour to hour.

The greens are seeded with Bermuda grasses for play from March through November and reseeded with rye grass, usually from late September to early November, for play in the cooler winter months. Castle Harbour is the exception. It seeds its greens every January.

Rules

Proper golf attire is a must at all clubs. Shirts must have collars and sleeves while shorts must be Bermuda length. You won't be permitted to play in jeans or cut-offs. Caddies are available at the Mid-Ocean Club (private). Gas carts are mandatory at Belmont, Castle Harbour and the Southampton Princess. They are mandatory only on weekends and holidays at government-owned courses, Port Royal, Ocean View and St. George's. You can rent clubs and take lessons with local pros at all the courses and rent shoes at most. You can bring your own clubs and gear, of course.

Tee Times & Fees

The government courses have a centralized automated tee time reservation system. You can call ☎ 234-Golf (24 hours a day) to confirm or cancel up to seven days in advance. Reservations at other courses should be made through your hotel. Mid-Ocean and Riddle's Bay courses are private clubs and an intro-

duction by a member or some of the island's select hotels is required for play.

Major credit cards (MasterCard, Visa and American Express) are accepted at every course for fees and in the pro shops as well.

Tournaments

Golf is serious business here and a score of tournaments are scheduled – most during the October-March off-season. A few are social tournaments. These include the Senior's Classic (both sexes 50+), Couples (any age) and the Ladies Pro-Am Tournament. Call for details: **Pompano Beach Club**, ☎ 800-343-4155. E-mail pompano@ibl.bm.

For other tournament details or any golf information contact: **Bermuda Golf Association**, ☎ 238-1367. Fax 238-0983.

Golf Courses

BELMONT GOLF CLUB
Warwick
18 holes, par 70, 5,770 yards
☎ 236-6400
18 holes, $86, Monday-Friday; includes gas cart.
Add $5 for weekend play.

This course was part of the Belmont Hotel, which has now been closed. The course was scheduled for redevelopment during the 1999-2000 off-season so it should be ready to go by now.

The first two holes, par-fours, are confidence-builders, which you'll appreciate as you hit the double-tiered greens, blind second shots, tight fairways and small greens. Ideal for inexperienced players, the course is

inland and has few ocean views. Biggest negative – it can get crowded and play may be slow on weekends.

CASTLE HARBOUR GOLF CLUB
Tucker's Town
18 holes, par 71, 6440 yards
☎ 298-6959
9 or 18 holes, $100 for Marriott guests, $130 for others ($80 December-February). Carts extra.

Castle Harbour is expensive, but it's clear that the money is used to maintain the course, giving it firm, consistently cropped greens. The terrain is undulating and offers spectacular views of the waters on three sides of the course. Elevated greens are common here, but fortunately there are fewer sand traps then at sister courses. Many consider the 18th hole, with jagged cliffs at the harbour and a flower-filled pond on the green, Bermuda's toughest finishing hole. Sunset golf starts at 4:30 pm.

PORT ROYAL GOLF COURSE
Southampton
18 holes, par 71, 6561 yards.
☎ 234-Golf (starting time)
18 holes, $72, Monday through Friday ($10 more on weekends and holidays). Soft spikes a must. Carts extra.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones, Port Royal is popular and challenging. with freeform greens set against the azure sea and winding fairways skirting coral cliffs. Owned and operated by the Bermuda government, Port Royal is relatively flat, although there are some hills on the back nine. The course has close-cropped fairways, elevated tees and greens, and, because, it is near the ocean, lots of wind. The 16th and 15th holes edge the cliffs along Whale Bay, where a 19th-century fortification lies between the fairway and the bay.

Port Royal is the most heavily played course in Bermuda.

RIDDELL'S BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Warwick
18 holes, par 70, 5713 yards
☎ 238-1060
18 holes, $70, Monday through Friday, $90 weekends and holidays. Rates are reduced if you play with a member. Carts extra.

Built in 1922, this was Bermuda's first golf course. Accuracy is the name of the game here, for, although the course is relatively short, it has tight fairways and small, narrow greens. There is a 427-yard uphill par-four and several par-fours in the 360-yard range. Riddell's is a private course and an introduction by a member is required. Your hotel can make special arrangements for you to play here.

ST. GEORGE'S GOLF COURSE
St. George
18 holes, par 62, 4043 yards
☎ 234-Golf (reservations)
18 holes, $44. Sunset golf starts at 3 pm. Carts extra.

Located at the eastern tip of the island, the course is within walking distance of the town. This is the newest of the government golf courses, built in 1985 and designed by Robert Trent Jones. Exposed to wind, with great ocean views from the 8th, 9th, 14th and 15th holes and with hard and slick greens from the salty air, St. George's can be frustrating. Relax, enjoy the views, including that of Fort St. Catherine, and choose your shots carefully.

SOUTHAMPTON PRINCESS GOLF CLUB
Southampton
18 holes, par 54, 2684 yards
☎ 239-6952. 18 holes, $38 for guests, $5 additional for non-guests. Carts extra.

On the hillside between the Southampton Princess Hotel and South Road, this par-3 course is well maintained and well irrigated. It is quite steep and has a scenic setting overlooking the ocean. The vertical drop on the first two holes seems like 200 feet, while the rise on the fourth hole makes its 178 yards seem far longer. The 16th hole is circled by oleander bushes and a view of Gibbs Hill Lighthouse.

MID-OCEAN CLUB
Tucker's Town
18 holes, par 71, 6512 yards
☎ 293-0330
9 or 18 holes, $160 ($70 when playing with a member). Caddies $25 per bag.

Legend has Babe Ruth playing here.

Many aficionados rate the Mid-Ocean Club as one of the top 50 courses in the world.

It has tees set on coral cliffs overlooking the ocean, rolling fairways lined with palms and spice trees and lovely views of shrubs and Mangrove Lake. Six par-fours exceed 400 yards and there's a 238-yard par-three. Mid-Ocean is a private club and an introduction by a member is required. Non-members can play on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, except for holidays.

OCEAN VIEW GOLF COURSE
Devonshire
9 holes, par 25, 2940 yards
☎ *234-Golf (reservations)*
9 holes, $25, 18 holes, $33. Carts extra.

Up until the 1950s this course was played primarily by African-Bermudians, who were not permitted to play elsewhere.

With unpredictable terrain and rambling hills, this government-owned course offers splendid vistas of the Atlantic and the greenest fairways here. Refurbished in the last few years, it has a new clubhouse and driving range. Several holes offer excitement,

with coral walls, elevated greens and water hazards. Sunset golf starts at 3:45 pm.

Driving Range

The **Bermuda Golf Academy and Driving Range**, near Somerset Bridge is a golf center as well as a family entertainment center. It has a 320-yard driving range with 40 practice bays, an 18-hole putting green, eight target greens and a sand bunker/chipping area. The Academy is lit at night so you can hone your game from 9 am to 10:30 pm. Children can play mini-golf. There is an informal restaurant. ☎ 238-8800.

Tennis

In 1873, Bermudian Thomas Middleton returned from England with the equipment needed to play lawn tennis, the new game that was all the rage there. It soon proved too strenuous for the Middletons, but Mary Grey, his friend's daughter, enjoyed playing. She induced her friends to play and soon tennis courts were springing up all over Bermuda. A US visitor saw the game, fell in love with it and persuaded her club, the Staten Island Cricket Club, to build a court on its grounds. The rest is history.

Bermuda has over 100 public tennis courts – most of them at the hotels. They are located throughout the island and many can be lit for night play. There are Har-tru, clay, hard and plexipave (composite) courts, but no grass.

If you are in Bermuda in June, July, or August, avoid playing between 11 am and 3 pm, when it is very hot and can be humid.

Humidity causes the balls to become heavy and damp, slowing play.

From October through March, you can play all day and into the night.

Some hotels restrict court use to their guests. Others allow non-guests to play for a fee – $12 per hour is common.

Coral Beach and Tennis Club, Paget, is the best tennis facility on Bermuda with eight clay courts (three lit), but unfortunately it is private. Guests at Waterloo House, Horizons and Cottages and Newstead Hotel have privileges here. ☎ 236-2233.

Tennis whites are mandatory here.

Hotel Courts – Open to the Public

Elbow Beach Hotel, Paget, has five laycold courts (two lit). There is a pro shop and lessons are offered. ☎ 236-3535.

Horizons and Cottages, Paget, has three on-property courts and also has privileges at Coral Beach. There is no pro here nor can courts be lit. ☎ 236-0048.

Marriott's Castle Harbour Resort, Tucker's Town, has six plexipave courts. They give lessons and offer clinics. ☎ 293-2040 ext. 6758.

Tennis whites are mandatory here.

Newstead Hotel, Paget, has two clay courts on-property and has privileges at Coral Beach. There is no pro here nor can courts be lit. ☎ 236-6000.

Port Royal Club, Southampton, has four plexipave courts (one lit). There are pros here and lessons are offered. ☎ 234-2516.

The Reefs, Southampton, has two plexipave courts and a pro for lessons. ☎ 238-0222.

Sonesta Beach Resort, Southampton has six plexipave courts (two lit) and a pro. ☎ 292-0222.

Stonington Beach Hotel, Paget, has two plexipave courts and a pro. ☎ 292-6627.

Whaler Inn Tennis Club, Southampton Princess, has 11 plexipave courts (three lit) and several pros. ☎ 239-6950.

Non-Hotel Facilities

Government Tennis Stadium, 2 Marsh Folly, Pembroke, has three clay and five plexicushion courts (three lit). There is a pro. ☎ 292-0105.

Proper tennis attire, but not whites, mandatory.

Hamilton Tennis Club, Pembroke, has three asphalt (two lit) courts and a pro. ☎ 295-5608.

Tournaments

Tennis tournaments are held throughout the year, but most frequently in the fall and winter. Some allow visitors to play and many welcome spectators. Contact: **Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association** for an up-to-date schedule. ☎ 296-0834. Fax 295-3056.

Squash

The **Bermuda Squash Racquets Club**, Middle Road, Devonshire, allows visitors to use their four international- size courts from 10 am to 10 pm. Reservations are required. You can borrow rackets and balls. ☎ 292-6881.

Coral Beach and Tennis Club, South Road, Paget, has two international-size courts. This is a private club that requires an introduction by a member, but guests at associated hotels (Waterloo House, New-

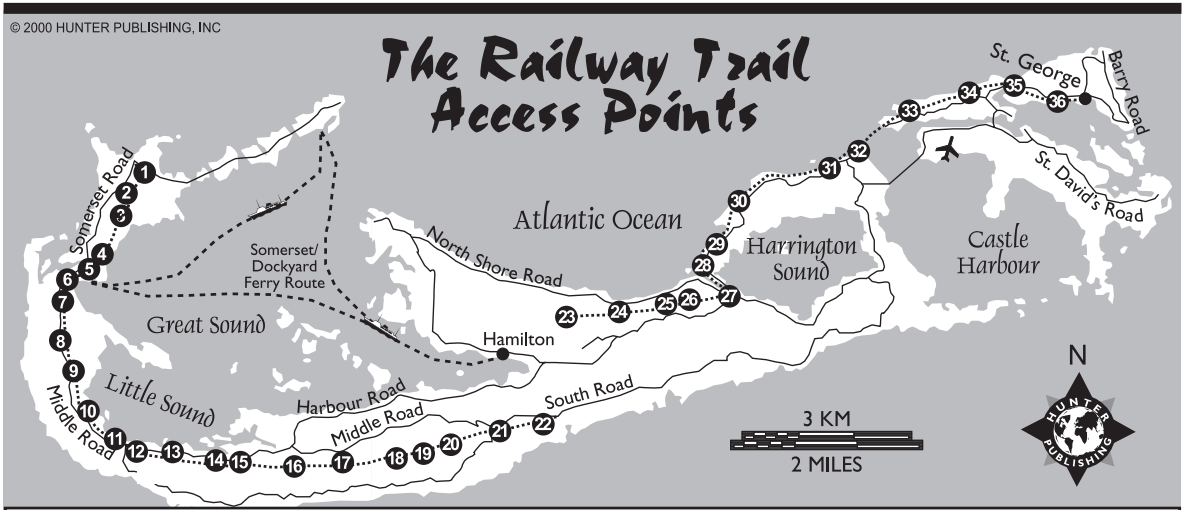
stead Hotel, Horizons & Cottages) may also play. ☎ 236-2233.

The Railway Trail

Early plans to build a railway across Bermuda were prepared in 1899, but it was difficult to get people to sell their land. So it wasn't until 1922 that the Bermudian Parliament agreed to build the line. Forced to lay track near the shore at several points, the railway engineers had to bridge the water at several places. The 21 miles of track were carried on trestle bridges, 16 of which crossed over water. Officially opened in October 1931, the Bermudian Railway was the most costly railway (mile-for-mile) ever built and, at two miles a year, the slowest. Until that time, people traveled across the islands on horse-drawn carriages and on horseback. Old traditions die hard and the railway did not become popular immediately. Cars had both first and second-class sections.

The railway was badly damaged by World War II. The military stationed here introduced motorcars to the island and during the war spare parts to maintain the cars and tracks, were very hard to obtain. In 1946 the government took control of the line, which by now was called "Old Rattle and Shake." Not profitable enough to warrant the cost of major repairs, the railway tracks and cars were sold to British Guiana (now Guyana), leaving a path that was soon overgrown. In its 17 years of existence, the line carried 14 million passengers. Increasingly crowded roads and restrictions on car ownership prove the folly of allowing the railway to fail.

In 1984, the government dedicated the land of the old railway as a path or bridleway and set out to clear the overgrown track path. The train tracks extended from



1. Beacon Hill Rd
2. Scott Hill Rd
3. Sound View Rd
4. Scaur Hill Fort Park
5. Lantana
6. Wharf Dr (Somerset Bridge)
7. Overplus Ln
8. George's Bay Rd
9. Tribe Rd #5
10. Opposite Whale Bay Rd
11. Franks Bay
12. Middle/South Rd Jctn
13. Church Rd
14. Tribe Rd #2
15. Lighthouse Rd
16. Camp Hill Rd
17. Khyber Pass
18. Ord Rd/Dunscombe Rd
19. Cobbs Hill Rd
20. Ord Rd (South Hill)
21. South Rd (Harmony Rd)
22. South Rd (Roundabout)
23. Palmetto Rd
24. Baker's Hill
25. Store Hill
26. N Shore Rd (Jennings)
27. N Shore Rd (Aquarium)
28. Bermuda Railway Museum
29. N Shore Rd (Shelly Bay/Old Rd)
30. N Shore Rd (Market Pl/Radnor)
31. Bailey's Rd
32. Coney Island Rd
33. Ferry Rd (Ferry Reach Park)
34. Ferry Rd (Pendle Hill)
35. Mullet Bay Rd
36. Wellington St

one end of the island chain to the other, offering sea views, exotic flora and fauna and breathtaking scenery. Today's Railway Trail follows its path between Somerset and St. George, except for a small area near Hamilton that became a paved road.

The trail was divided into seven sections. There are 36 access points. Some portions are paved and accessible for cycles, while others are narrow and for pedestrians only. Keep in mind that sections are not contiguous so you'll need transportation between them.

TIP

Pick up the brochure "Railway Trail Walking Guide" at any Visitor's Service Bureau. It maps each section of the trail, showing access points and keying in the sights en route.

Bicycling & Jogging

Although you are permitted to bicycle on the roads, which are paved and well maintained, don't attempt to do so unless you are experienced and confident. Roads are narrow, winding, hilly and traffic-filled. Shoulders are rare. You are far better off bicycling on the **Railway Trail**.

Bermuda's **West End** from Somerset Bridge to the Royal Naval Dockyard is less trafficked and is marked by back roads that lead to beaches and reserves. Additionally, the area has several "Tribe Roads," which can be hiked or bicycled, but are closed to traffic.

Spittal Pond Nature Reserve, Smith's Parish, is an enjoyable place to bicycle as well. The trail hugs the shore at several points, and there are birds to keep you company.

Horseback Riding

Available year-round for both experienced and novice riders. All rides are accompanied by instructors. No riding is permitted without them nor on public beaches. There are trails in the national parks. Reservations required.

Spicelands Riding Centre, Middle Road, Warwick, offers trail rides along beach trails. Rides last one hour. They also offer evening rides weekdays. ☎ 238-8212

No children under 10.

Lee Bow Riding Centre, Tribe Road 1, Devonshire, offers trail rides along the North Shore and the Railway Trail. ☎ 236-4181.

Fitness & Spa Services

Many hotels have fitness centers with treadmills, life cycles and Nautilus machines. Others have day spa services that are open to the general public. They offer massages of various kinds, reflexology, facials, manicures, pedicures, haircuts, coloring and styling. There are services for men and women.

Spa at Sonesta Beach Hotel
Southampton
☎ 238-1226

Nirvana
Ariel Sands, Devonshire
☎ 236-1010

Princess Salon
Hamilton Princess, Pembroke
☎ 295-1039 ext. 7811

Elbow Beach Hotel Health & Beauty Centre
Paget
☎ 232-2156

Marriott's Castle Harbour Hotel
Tucker's Town
☎ 239-2767

Spectator Sports

Cricket

If you've never seen a cricket match, Bermuda is a good place to do so. Bermudians take their cricket seriously. The annual Cup Match Cricket festival, held on a Thursday and Friday in August, is a national holiday. This is a tradition that started in 1902. The best teams from Somerset (west) play the best teams from St. George's (east) for the cup. Cup matches draw large numbers of spectators. Matches are played every weekend from the end of April to the middle of September on fields all over Bermuda.

Contact: **Somerset Cricket Club**, Sandy's, ☎ 234-0327; or **St. George's Cricket Club**, St. George, ☎ 234-0374.

Soccer

Although you'll see impromptu soccer games on beaches and grassy fields as you explore the island, there are organized games on weekends from early October to the end of April. Check with your concierge or the visitor's service bureau for locations of matches during your stay.

Rugby

Rugby games are played at the **National Sports Club**, Middle Road, Devonshire, on weekends from October through April. The **World Rugby Classic**, held in November, attracts teams from the US, France, Britain, New Zealand and Australia. Check with the Visitor's Service Bureau for exact dates.

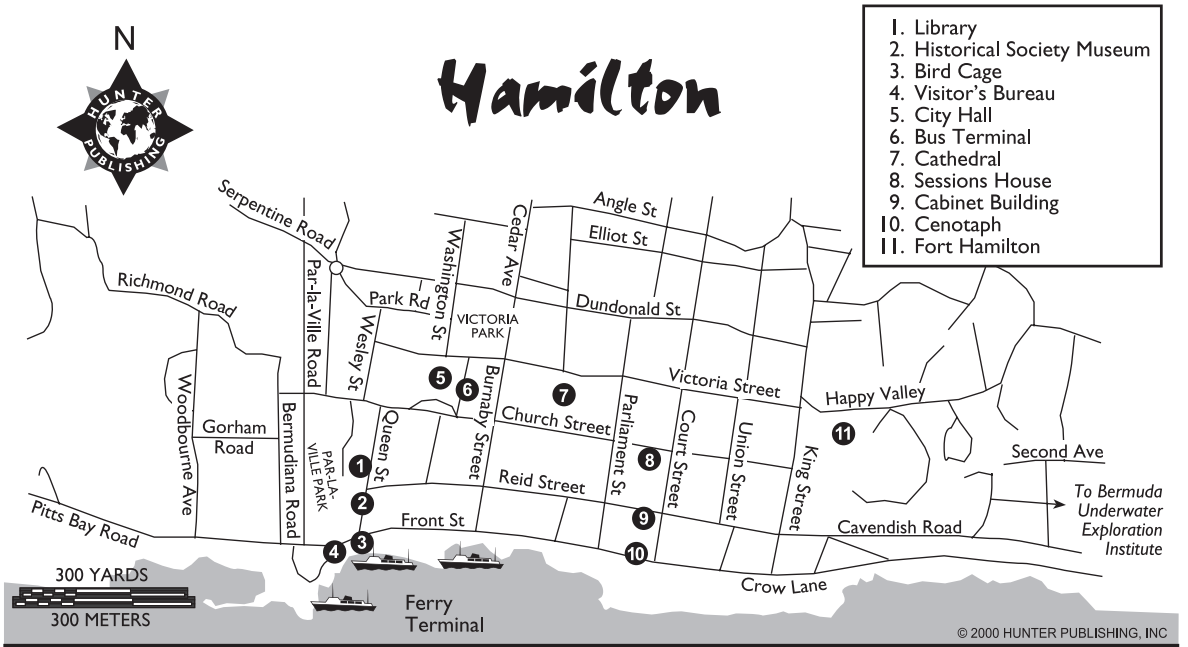
Sightseeing

Exploring Hamilton

Named for a former governor, Hamilton became the capital of Bermuda in 1815, replacing the town of St. George. A small picturesque town, Hamilton is where the action is on Bermuda. It is the political and commercial hub of the island and nearly one-quarter of Bermuda's population lives in Pembroke Parish (which surrounds the city).

If Hamilton is the heart of Bermuda, Front Street is the heart of Hamilton. Edging the harbor, it is lined with two- and three-story, turn-of-the-century Victorian buildings painted in pale pastel shades. Many of the buildings house restaurants with verandahs that overlook the street. Front Street also houses Bermuda's finest shops. It is bustling, especially when cruise ships are docked nearby.

At 5 pm, the shops close and a hush settles over the city. That is a lovely time to walk its dozen streets and narrow connecting alleyways. History buffs should be aware that Hamilton's historic sights will also close at 5 pm. Many of the sights can be seen while strolling


Hamilton
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
1. Library
2. Historical Society Museum
3. Bird Cage
4. Visitor's Bureau
5. City Hall
6. Bus Terminal
7. Cathedral
8. Sessions House
9. Cabinet Building
10. Cenotaph
11. Fort Hamilton
Serpentine Road
Richmond Road
Par-la-Ville Road
Park Rd
Wesley St
Washington St
Cedar Ave
Angle St
Elliot St
Dundonald St
VICTORIA PARK
Victoria Street
Happy Valley
Second Ave
To Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute
Woodbourne Ave
Gorham Road
Bermudiana Road
PAR-LA-VILLE PARK
Queen St
Burnaby Street
Church Street
Parliament St
Court Street
Union Street
King Street
Reid Street
Front St
Cavendish Road
Pitts Bay Road
Crow Lane
300 YARDS
300 METERS
Ferry Terminal
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and only a few need to be open to be appreciated. We'll detail them below so you can decide which are of interest to you.

The phrase "all roads lead to Hamilton" is accurate, both literally and figuratively. When Bermudians say "I'm going to town," they need not say Hamilton. And since all the island's buses depart and return from its bus station, you'll find yourself "in town" a lot if you use the bus system.

Orientation

Three important east-west streets run parallel to the harbor. They are:

Front Street – Adjacent to the harbor, Front Street is Hamilton's "main-drag." Lined with Victorian-era buildings that house fine shops and restaurants, it bustles with people and traffic. The bus travels along Front Street when entering Hamilton.

Reid Street – Connected to Front Street by quaint alleyways and shopping arcades, Reid Street is home to shops and restaurants that serve the needs of locals. Many people work here as well.

Church Street – Many office and government buildings front Church Street. The modern City Hall building is here, as is the Hamilton Bus Terminal.

Queen Street is the major north-south street that links the key streets above. Other main central city streets are **Par-la-ville**, **Burnaby** and **Parliament**.

Hamilton Sights

The Ferry Terminal & Visitor's Service Bureau

At the tip of Front Street, the Ferry Terminal is a good kick-off point for exploring the city and for shopping forays as well. The Visitor's Service Bureau (Tourist Office) is adjacent to the terminal. Pick up a map, bus schedule and other brochures here. Hours: 9 am-5 pm. Closed Sunday.

Albouy's Point/Barr's Bay Park

When cruise ships are docked, they block the view of the harbour and Great Sound from central Hamilton. Head out to these nearby parks by following Point Pleasant Road, a one-block street adjacent to the terminal, to Albouy's Point. Barr's Bay Park is along the promenade to your right. You can watch the busy harbour and even see some posh yachts at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club.

Bank of Bermuda Coin Collection

The stately building on Point Pleasant Road is the Bank of Bermuda. Its mezzanine floor houses a fascinating coin collection. Every type of British coin minted from the time of King James (1603-1625) to the present is representated, as are many Spanish coins used in colonial times. Look for the "hog money," the first coins minted in Bermuda early in the 17th century. The wild hog on one side pays homage to the hogs that were on Bermuda when the *Sea Venture* was wrecked here. The hogs, survivors of an earlier shipwreck, provided much-needed protein. Hours: Monday, 9:30 am-4 pm; Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 am-4 pm; Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

The Birdcage

A city landmark, the "Birdcage" sits at the foot of Queen Street. Designed by Michael "Vickey" Bird, it is a traffic box often manned by a Bermuda-shorts-clad officer directing Front Street traffic. More often, it is a backdrop for zany photos.

Queen Street's Trio of Sights

Par-la-Ville Park – Once a private garden, it was designed and tended by William B. Perot, Bermuda's first postmaster. His plant collection includes rare and exotic species from all over the world. You can't miss the huge Indian rubber tree that provides shade for the Library and Museum, now in Mr. Perot's former home. The park (open 8 am –6 pm) looks much as it did in the mid-1800s. Its winding paths, perfectly landscaped lawns and flowerbeds and shaded benches offer a quiet break from the bustle of Front Street.

Try to avoid the park at mid-day, when local office workers brown-bag lunch here.

Bermuda National Library and Historical Society Museum – Two rooms of this Georgian-style house exhibit an esthetic collection of memorabilia, including photos of Sir George Somers and Postmaster Perot. The Bermuda map of 1622 shows the division of the island into parishes and there are lots of British coins. Cedar furniture on display shows what was popular in the early 1800s. The library was moved here in 1916. The reference section specialized in books about Bermuda and has an extensive microfilm collection of newspapers dating back to 1784. There is an excellent rare book collection too. You can use the reading room to catch up on current news and periodicals. Hours: 9:30 am-3:30 pm Monday-Saturday. Free

Ask to see George Washington's letter to Bermudians asking for gunpowder.

Perot Post Office – The two-story white building nextdoor dates from 1840 when Postmaster Perot was

in-charge. Local lore has him meeting steamers to pick up the mail, then storing it under his top hat. Strolling back through town, he greeted friends by tipping his hat and delivering mail at the same time. In 1848, Perot printed Bermuda's first stamps. Only a few still exist; they have sold at auctions for very large sums. The building continues to function as Bermuda's main post office. Open weekdays 9 am-5 pm.

Hamilton City Hall, National Gallery, Society of Arts Gallery

Built in 1960 on Church Street, this modern white building is set back from the street by a lawn with a lily-pond. Look for the weather vane in the shape of the *Sea Venture* and the massive Bermuda cedar doors that lead into a portrait gallery. Off the lobby, you'll find the Benbow Collection of 20th-century stamps and rotating exhibits. The cedar staircase leads to the National Gallery (East Exhibition Room), which is climate-controlled. Opened in 1992 it displays European paintings from the early 16th century through the 19th century, as well as an extensive collection of works about Bermuda by Bermudians and visitors to the island. The Society of Arts Gallery (West Exhibition Room) hosts shows by local artists and photographers Entrance fee to National Gallery ($3); the others are free. Hours: City Hall 9 am-5 pm weekdays; the Galleries 10 am-4 pm Monday-Saturday.

Cabinet Building & Sessions House

Bermuda's Senate meets in a dignified two-story building that is surrounded by trees and gardens on Front Street at Parliament Street. The formal opening of Parliament, complete with plumed hats and black horses, takes place on the first Friday of Novem-

ber. You can visit the chambers any weekday, but the Senate only meets on Wednesdays. 9 am-5 pm. Free admission.

Look for the Cenotaph (in front), which is a memorial to Bermuda's war dead. Wreaths are placed here by local dignitaries on Remembrance Day (November 11). Copied from the monument in Britain, it is well maintained.

Sessions House, an impressive Italianate building, houses the House of Assembly (lower house) and Bermuda's Supreme Court. Built in 1819, the Florentine towers and colonnade were added in 1887 to honor Queen Victoria. Several years later, the Victorian Jubilee Clock Tower was also added. The Assembly meets on Friday and, much like British Parliament, the speaker wears a full black robe and wig. Hours: 9:30 am-12:30 pm, 2-5 pm weekdays.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

Bermuda's Parliament is the third oldest in the world, after Iceland and England. It first met in 1620 at St. Peter's Church in St. George.

Bermuda Cathedral

Formally named "Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity," this structure on Church Street towers over the city's skyline . This is the seat of the Anglican Church in Bermuda and it was consecrated in 1911. It is constructed of Bermuda limestone and materials imported from Scotland, Nova Scotia, France and Ireland. Look for the Warrior Chapel dedicated to honor those who served and died in World War I. The choir stalls, pulpit and bishop's throne are carved in

oak and the stained-glass windows are lovely. You can climb to the tower (150 steps) for a spectacular view of the city and Great Sound. There's a $3 fee. Hours: weekdays 10 am-3 pm. For services, ☎ 292-4033.

St. Theresa's Church

Look for the gold and silver chalice the Pope gave as a gift.

Off the beaten track on Cedar Avenue at Elliot Street, this Spanish mission-style church serves as the seat for the six other Roman Catholic Churches here. Opened in 1932, it was visited by Pope Paul VI in 1968. Open 7:30 am-7 pm daily. For services, ☎ 292-0607.

Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute

This exhibit hall and restaurant is the most impressive sight in Hamilton and one of Bermuda's "must-see" sights. It is not in Hamilton proper, but you can easily walk to it.

Even if you aren't a curious traveler you should head to BUEI, which opened in 1997 and is supported by public donations. Its stated purpose is to educate and entertain visitors about the mysteries of the ocean, using computer driven exhibits, films, displays and inter-active media. It succeeds on both counts.

The exhibits are on two levels. The main floor gallery focuses on dives, divers and ocean exploration. Eight panels explain how the sea affects weather, geology and people's lives. You can examine instruments used by scientists to study the ocean, including the bathysphere used by William Beebe in 1934. He descended in it to a depth of 3,028 feet. Learn about seashells (on film) from Jack Lightbourn, Bermuda's foremost conchologist, and visit the room nearby that houses his collection. Test your scuba skills or take an interaction underwater reef ride.

Take an exciting "dive" in a simulated submersible and explore aspects of the ocean floor using lasers, charts and models. The Shipwreck Gallery introduces visitors to the story of Bermuda's many shipwrecks and the cargo removed from them.

Opt for a terrace table.

La Coquille Restaurant, serves French-style food for lunch and dinner.

The shop, much like a museum store, has unusual gift items.

> ★ NOTE
>
> The Trustee Highlight's Tour is led by key trustees who each have an area of expertise. The tour includes a video and an interactive "ride" to the ocean floor. The tour finishes with continental breakfast at La Coquille. Thursdays at 9 am The tour lasts one hour and the $25 admission charge also includes admission when the institute opens. ☎ 292-7219 for reservations.

Hours: April 1-October 31 10 am-6 pm daily; November 1-March 31 9 am-5 pm daily. Fee: $10. ☎ 292-7219. Website: www.buei.org.

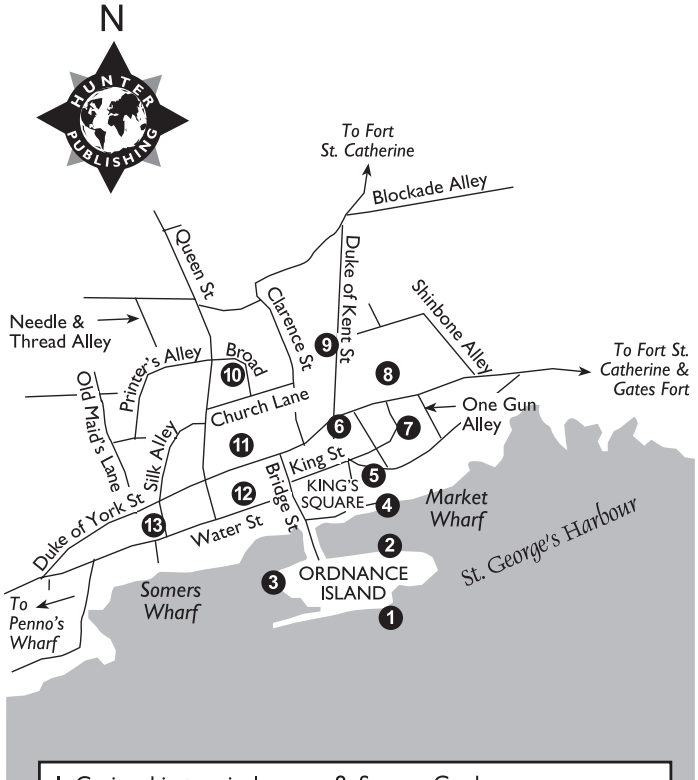
Getting There: BUEI is located on East Broadway, near the roundabout at the outskirts of Hamilton. It's a 15-minute walk from the Ferry Terminal area.

Bus #7 will drop you in front of the institute.

Exploring the Town of St. George

St. George's Island is where Bermuda was born 400 years ago when the *Sea Venture*, on its way to Virginia, was wrecked on its coast. The town of the same

St. George



1. Cruise ship terminal
2. Deliverance
3. Sir George Somers statue
4. Visitor Information
5. Town Hall
6. Bridge House
7. State House
8. Somers Gardens
9. St. Georges Historical Society Museum
10. Old Rectory
11. St. Peter's Church
12. Bermuda National Trust Museum
13. Tucker House Museum

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NOT TO SCALE

name, established nearby, has been continuously occupied since 1609. It has buildings that predate any in Williamsburg, Virginia. Named for the legendary dragon slayer and patron saint of England, as well as in honor of Sir George Somers, Bermuda's founding father, St. George is a town, an island and a parish. The amazing thing about the town, which was Bermuda's capital till 1815, is that it has not been recreated or reconstructed to illustrate what life was like here a century ago, much as Williamsburg has. Rather St. George has changed hardly at all and looks much as it did in colonial times, when Bermuda's cultural heritage was born. Some people walking beside you will be direct descendants of the founding fathers.

It is really fun to explore King's Square and the cobblestoned, back streets and quaint alleyways with names like "Petticoat Lane," "Barber's Lane" and "NEA's Alley." There are neat pastel buildings clustered around the shoreline and traditional homes and modern ones side-by-side on the sloping hillsides that overlook the busy harbor. You'll be struck here by the relaxed pace – far different from that of Hamilton.

The Town Heritage Plan

In an effort to preserve their heritage and share it with others, the town has embarked on the St. George's Town Heritage Plan, which has organized tours and reenactments for visitors. Stop into the Visitor's Service Bureau (Bridge St.) for brochures and maps.

St. George is very small and in an hour or two you can stroll through it, but you can easily spend an entire day if you visit the historic sites, shop in Somers'

Wharf mini-mall and stop for lunch in one of the town's charming restaurants.

Orientation

King's Square is the heart of St. George. Encircled by public buildings, restaurants and shops, it is adjacent to the cruise ship dock.

Water Street leads west out of King's Square, and is a pedestrian-only promenade from 10 am-4 pm daily. Several historic buildings and museums, restaurants and shops are on Water Street.

York Street, named for the Duke of, is St. George's "thoroughfare," which means it has two-way traffic and is the bus route. St. Peter's Church, the premier stop here, is on York Street.

Strolling Through St. George

Start in **King's Square**, built in the 1600s and previously called Market Square and King's Parade. Although there are several historic buildings in or near the square, your eyes will be caught by the stocks, pillory and whipping post, which were used to punish criminals. Some offenses were deemed so serious that one of the person's ears were nailed to the post. Today's version is made of Bermuda cedar and is a popular spot for zany photographs. Less serious offenses were punished by dunking the offender in the briny. The dunking stool is on Ordnance Island nearby.

Don't Miss!

As part of the town's heritage program, a Town Crier appears and invites visitors to take part in a re-enactment at noon on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from April through October. From November through March, it takes place on Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Great fun for kids.

Town Hall is where the Mayor, three Aldermen and five Councilors meet. Built in 1782, it has cedar furnishings and a collection of photos of former mayors. Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm.

Follow King Street out of the square and turn left onto Bridge Street. On the corner of York Street you'll see **Bridge House**, built in 1700. It was home to several early governors and an unpopular Virginian loyalist whose privateers blockaded Chesapeake Bay during the Revolutionary War. It is the oldest continuously used domicile in Bermuda. Back at the beginnings of St. George, much of this area was a muddy creek. A bridge was built to ford the creek and hence the building's name. Both the bridge and creek are long gone. Bridge House remains a private residence, but is part of Bermuda's National Trust. It houses an Art Gallery that features work by local artists. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm and Sunday 11-4 pm. Closed holidays.

Follow York Street (left) to the tip of King's Square, where you'll find the **Bermuda National Trust Museum**, in the former Globe Hotel building. During the Civil War, the hotel was the headquarters of Confederate agents. It is now an interesting museum. It

shows a model of the *Sea Venture* and a 15-minute film on Bermuda's history. Particularly interesting, an exhibit called "Rogues and Runners" tells the story of Bermuda's involvement in the American Civil War. Monday-Saturday 10-4, Sunday 1-4. Entrance fee $4 or Combination Ticket.

The Combination Ticket

A Combination Ticket allows you to combine visits to National Trust Properties – the Bermuda Museum, Tucker House (below) and Verdmont Museum (Smith's Parish) for $5.

You can't miss **St. Peter's Church** across York Street. The church and its courtyard are St. George's premier sights. The original church, completed for Christmas 1612, was built of wood, with a palmetto leaf thatch roof. A more sturdy structure was built in 1619, but was damaged by a hurricane. The present stone building was begun in 1713, but several additions have been made since then, i.e., the steeple and weathercock were added in 1766. St. Peter's is one of the oldest Anglican churches in the "New World." Until the State House was completed, St. Peter's was the colony's only public meeting place and the first meeting of Parliament was held here.

The church is very peaceful and beautiful.

It has polished cedar beams, pulpits and pews. It has a chalice from King Charles I and the vestry has fine communion silver. Look for the paten and alms basin that date to 1697-98, bearing the Royal arms and cipher of William III. Examine the memorial tablets on the interior walls and then head to the churchyard. It contains many headstones that date back over 300 years. Behind the west wall, you'll find graves of many slaves. Most of the tombs are small, but some are quite impressive. A 500-year-old cedar tree stands

near the back entrance. The church bell once hung from its branches. Church hours are Monday through Saturday 10 am-4:30 pm and Sunday 7:30 am-5 pm.

Exit here and follow Broad Alley for a few feet to visit the **Old Rectory**. Built in 1705 by a reformed pirate, it was later inhabited by Parson Richardson, a charismatic preacher known in town as "the little bishop." The Rectory is a private residence, but it is part of the National Trust. Open Wednesdays noon-5 pm, November through March only. Free.

This is a good place to wander the narrow alleys that meander through St. George. Stroll along Printer's Alley, Aunt Nea's Alley, Old Maid's Lane, Aunt Peggy's Lane and Silk Lane till you find yourself on Barber's Alley, which leads to Water Street.

At Water Street and Barber's Alley, you'll find the 18th-century **Tucker House Museum**. A famous Bermudian and American family, the Tuckers count a Bermudian Governor, a US Treasurer, a Confederate Navy Captain and an Episcopal Bishop in their ranks. Owned by the National Trust, the colonial artifacts, silver and furniture offer a glimpse into life here. Most of the articles were donated by the Tucker family of Baltimore. Hours are Monday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm. Closed Sunday. Fee, $3 or Combination Ticket.

A lovely mall with boutique shops is located between Water Street and Somer's Wharf, which edges the dock. After you've browsed, follow Somers' Wharf or Water Street back to King's Square.

Other Sights in Town

Ordnance Island – Just over the bridge from King's Square, this small island houses a replica of the ship *Deliverance*, which was built by the survivors of the

Look for the life-size sculpture of Sir George nearby.

Sea Venture wreck. They used it to sail to Virginia. Among them was Sir George Somers, who returned to colonize Bermuda. Here too you'll find the Dunking Stool, a punishment inflicted on prisoners long ago. *Deliverance*, 9 am-5 pm. Closed December 1 through March 30. Entrance fee.

Somers Gardens – This lovely garden area faces the State House and is near the bus station. **State House**, the first building in Bermuda, was built in Italian style. When St. George was Bermuda's capital, the government met here. Now rented by a Masonic lodge, it can be visited on Wednesdays from 10 to 4. Legend has it that, although Sir George's body was returned to Britain for burial, his heart was buried here. The gardens were opened in 1920 by the Prince of Wales, later the Duke of Windsor. It has interesting palm trees and colorful tropical plants. Open 8 am-4 pm daily.

At this writing the church was being renovated, but you can still visit it.

Unfinished Church – Walk through Somers Gardens and up the steps to Blockade Alley. At the top of the hill you'll see the church, designed in 1870 to replace St. Peter's. Damaged by storms and beset by financial problems, the church was never completed. It looks like an opera set.

Exploring St. George's Parish

The parish of St. George is comprised of two major islands – St. George and St. David. They are both north of Castle Harbour. Tucker's Town, an upscale residential community and home of the private Mid-Ocean Club, is south of the harbour.

Fort St. Catherine

Mini-bus service from King's Square runs several times daily to Fort St. Catherine.

Built in 1614 on the spot where the *Sea Venture* foundered five years earlier, it was rebuilt several times. Most of what you see today was built in the 19th century. It has a drawbridge and moat, as well as five powerful cannons facing the water. None was fired in anger. It's now an interesting historical museum, and the guns and weapon collection, along with the maze of tunnels, are interesting to see. Views of nearby islands and fortresses are lovely as well.

TIP

Check to see if a theatrical production is being staged here during your visit. Hours: 10 am-4 pm daily, $5 fee.

St. David's Island

Site of Bermuda International Airport, this is Bermuda's most easterly point. Until the Swing Bridge was built in 1934, St. David could only be reached by boat. Most of its inhabitants were descendents of the North American Indians taken from the colonies as slave laborers in the early 17th century. In 1941, the US military developed a naval air station here (now the airport), forcing the relocation of inhabitants to the island's eastern tip. The small village of St. David is here. Other island sights include the Battery, atop Bermuda's highest sea cliffs, and the lighthouse that was built in 1879. These sights will be a "schlep" for those without cycles.

Getting to St. David's Island

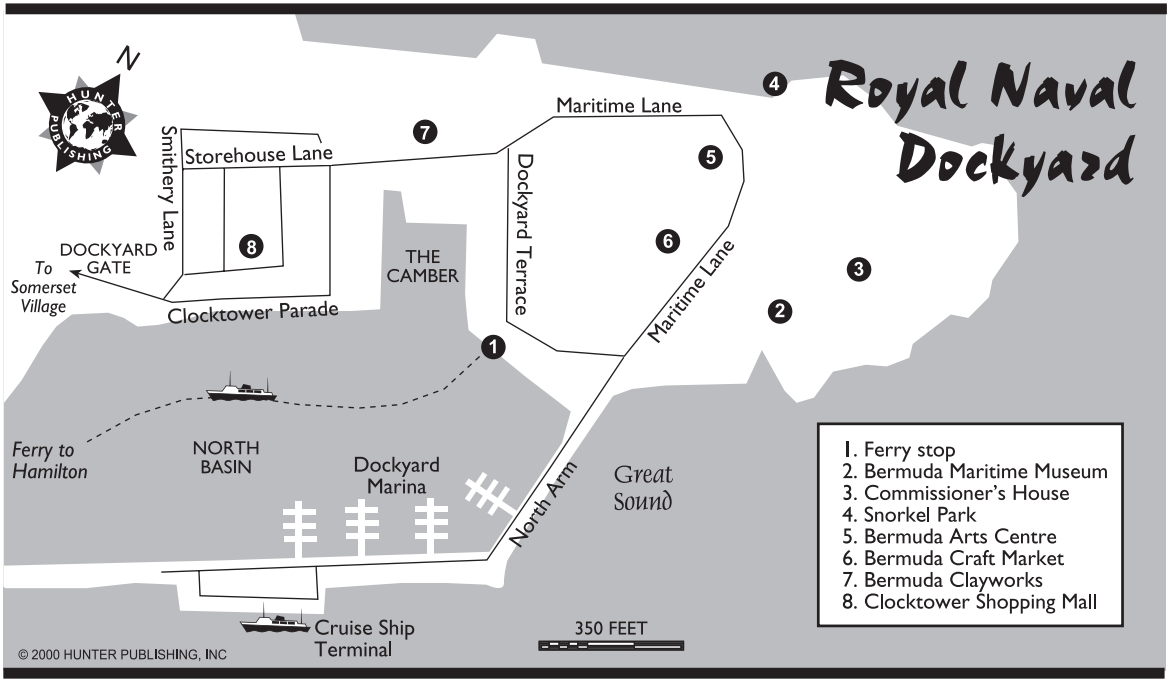
Hop bus #6 from St. George's Town Bus Station on York Street. It leaves on the hour. The St. George Mini-Bus also services St. David's. Their office is in the Town Hall.

Exploring the Royal Naval Dockyard

While we've placed the Royal Naval Dockyard third, here, it will almost certainly rank first with visitors who have children in tow. If your children are anything like mine, when finally coaxed off the beach or tennis court, they will grumble their way through the shops of Hamilton, while St. George's quaint streets will produce major yawns. Take heart! The Dockyard has an interesting maritime museum, complete with grazing sheep, a snorkel park and water sports center, a playground, pottery workshops and several informal eateries. You can sneak away for a few minutes to explore the craft market and visit the boutique shops in the mall. While you can easily stroll from one end of the area to another, there is a colorful shuttle that circles the property frequently. For $2, you can get on and off at will.

Some Background

The Dockyard was built after the American Revolutionary War when Britain needed new defensive positions after the loss of its East coast bases. Although the British Navy ruled the high seas, they feared both the fledgling American navy and that of Napoleon, whose privateers posed a threat to Britain's West Indies colonies. In 1790, the British government purchased the western tip of Ireland Island at Bermuda's most westerly point. They began to design the breakwaters, three-foot-thick walls, workshops, barracks


Royal Naval Dockyard
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
Maritime Lane
Storehouse Lane
Smithery Lane
Dockyard Terrace
Maritime Lane
DOCKYARD GATE
To Somerset Village
Clocktower Parade
THE CAMBER
Ferry to Hamilton
NORTH BASIN
Dockyard Marina
North Arm
Great Sound
Cruise Ship Terminal
350 FEET
© 2000 HUNTER PUBLISHING, INC
1. Ferry stop
2. Bermuda Maritime Museum
3. Commissioner's House
4. Snorkel Park
5. Bermuda Arts Centre
6. Bermuda Craft Market
7. Bermuda Clayworks
8. Clocktower Shopping Mall

Bermuda was a penal colony until 1863.

and Commissioner's house. Construction started in 1809. Slaves and British convicts quarried thousands of stones with few tools but their bare hands.

Ironically the dockyard was the launching point for the British attack on Washington DC during the War of 1812. By World War II, the Allies used the dockyard to repair damaged battleships, monitor Nazi subs and for intelligence operations.

The dockyard is a work in progress.

In 1951, the British Navy left and the buildings stood silent until local businesspeople purchased the dockyard and installed shops, markets and a museum in the historic buildings. New buildings and activity centers are planned.

The Dockyard Today

Whether you arrive by cycle or bus you'll pass through the narrow gateway edged by stone pillars. Built in 1841, it was and is the only land entrance to the dockyard. Nearby, you'll see the old "casemates," which served as a barracks, a school and a prison. The bus will stop at the "Clock Tower Centre" and then at the "Maritime Museum." You'll be struck by the beautifully landscaped grounds.

Fortress Keep - Bermuda Maritime Museum

"The Keep," Bermuda's largest fort, sprawled across six acres at the island's tip. Bordered by three-foot-thick walls, the buildings and walls are much as they were 150 years ago when they stored muskets and gunpowder removed from the ships that were being repaired in the outer yard. They share vaulted brick ceilings, limestone walls and non-spark-

ing bitumen floors. There are exhibits in six buildings around the keep yard that is marked by a sculpture of King Neptune recovered from *HMS Irresistible.*

Building #1 – Queen's Exhibition Hall, built as a magazine, it once stored 4,860 kegs of gunpowder. Exhibits here explore navigation, whaling, ship's models and Bermuda sloops.

Building #2 – The three-gabled shifting house contains historic diving equipment and artifacts recovered from 17th-century shipwrecks, including the *Sea Venture*, which sank in 1609 and led to Bermuda's first settlement.

Building #3 – The Bermuda Monetary Authority follows Bermuda's history through its coins and notes.

Building #4 – The Shell House, near the yard pond, has the "Isle of Devils" exhibit, which was the name given to Bermuda by sailors aware of its treacherous reefs.

Building #5 – The Forster Cooper Building houses the Royal Navy exhibit and the "Bromby Bottle Collection" of 2,000 rare and antique bottles found near Bermuda.

Building #6 – This large building, "The Boatloft," built for offices and workshops, houses the original Great Eastern Store House Clock. It has a nine-foot pendulum and three bronze bells – Ireland, Boaz and Watford – that still chime. There is an interactive Children's Museum and a fully rigged dinghy. Nearby, *The Dainty*, a beautifully restored, hundred-year-old racing yacht, stands in the yard.

Building #10 – The Commissioner's House stands on the Upper Grounds at the highest point of Ireland Island North. It is the oldest stone building here. Built in 1823, it housed the Royal Navy Commissioner. The unique building is framed with cast-iron and has been

faithfully restored and will house new exhibits and be used for special functions. Hours: 9:30 am-5 pm daily (10 am-5 pm November through March). Entrance fee.

The Cooperage

Directly across the road from the museum, you'll find the Cooperage. When the dockyard was functioning, this building was where the wood barrels that stored perishables were constructed. You can still see the two large stone forges that made the iron hoops in the foyer as you enter. Today's Cooperage houses the Bermuda Craft Market and the Bermuda Arts Centre.

In the **Craft Market** you can watch artisans at work making candles, ceramic pots and vases, blowing glass and making Christmas decorations (year-round). You'll find many wicker and carved wood items too. You can ask questions and even place a special order. ☎ 234-3208.

The **Bermuda Arts Centre** is a lovely gallery that features works by Bermuda's best-known artists. Artists-in-residence include a jeweler, sculptor, painters and photographers. Their works are for sale as are the one-of-a-kind dolls, jewelry and scarves. ☎ 234-2809.

Cooperage hours are 10 am to 5 pm daily, but check on Sunday and holiday hours.

The Victualling Yard

If you leave the Cooperage through its rear door, you'll find yourself on the stone path that crosses the Victualling Yard. This was a key part of the Dockyard's operation. It was in this yard and the stone ware-

houses adjacent to it that the food and supplies were stored and prepared for shipment. You can still see part of the high stone wall that was built to prevent pilferage. The barrels were brought from the Cooperage and filled with food. Salt and other spices were added to preserve the perishables and the barrels were sealed. Today the yard is a quiet area with tended lawns and benches where you can rest, sunbathe or enjoy a picnic lunch. The stone warehouses now house the Tourist Office, the Pirates Landing restaurant and some shops.

Rigger's Shop/Bermuda Clayworks

Three repair shops line Camber Road, which faces the ferry stop. The rigger's shop, timber shop and cable testing shop were all involved with boat repairs. West End Yachts occupies part of the space today while Bermuda Clayworks fills the rigger's shop. A local potter spins lovely vases, teapots, mugs and the like and there are colorful souvenirs too.

Great Eastern Storehouse - Clocktower Centre

This beautifully restored building houses a 29-shop mall and a small convention center at the core of today's dockyard. You can't miss the center. Just look for the 100-foot-high twin clock towers. The clocks continue to be a landmark for sailors today. The north tower clock has only a single hand, which is set daily to mark high tide. The south tower has four clocks that tell the time. The original, cast in England, was known as "the four-faced liar," since each of its faces had a different time. It is in the Maritime Museum. When it was completed in 1856, the building was used

for storage of supplies and as an administrative center. Its three-foot-thick walls keep the interior cool and its modern wrought-iron pillars and cobbled floors make it look avant-garde. There are 29 shops here selling antiques, cigars, clothing, books and lots of Bermuda souvenirs. Many of the shops are branches of well-known Hamilton stops. There is a lovely restaurant, Beethoven's, as well (see below).

Other Dockyard Activity Centers

Snorkel Park and Children's Playground – This small beach and adjacent playground are just right for children. Easy-to-read signs explain what coral reefs are and show the sea life in the area. The playground has slides, swings and a friendly waterfall.

Oleander Cycle Rentals – You can rent a cycle or a bicycle here to explore the West End of Bermuda and the Railway Trail. ☎ 234-2764.

Visitor's Service Bureau – Inquire about guided walking tours of the dockyard.

Neptune Cinema – The cinema in the old Cooperage has two screens, two shows daily (2:30 pm and 7:30 pm) and first-run films. ☎ 291-2035

Dockyard Shopping

We've already discussed shopping in the Craft Market, Arts Centre and Bermuda Clayworks. There are 29 shops in the historic Clocktower Centre, including branches of Front Street shops and specialty boutiques. A big plus here, the shops open on Sunday from 11 am-5 pm, while shops in Hamilton are normally closed.

Bermuda Gombey Trader – Look for handcrafted Bermuda and Caribbean souvenirs, including resort

wear, T-shirts, special jams, chutneys and honeys. They feature handmade Gombey rag dolls, each one unique.

Ripples – Great gifts for kids here, including colorful clothes, T-shirts, shorts and stuffed toys.

Carole Holding Watercolors – Pick up prints that depict island traditions and life, as well as seashells and carved sand sculptures.

Michael Swan Gallery – The finely detailed airbrush art of Michael Swan is featured here, but there are also candles, woodcarvings, hats and lithographs.

Dockyard Humidor – Sells premium cigars from Cuba and the Dominican Republic, as well as cigar-related accessories.

A.S. Cooper & Sons – A small selection compared to their Hamilton Shop, but includes fine crystal, perfumes and resort wear.

Dockyard Linens – A fine collection of tea towels, bun warmers, place mats and tablecloths.

Getting There

Bus #7 takes the South Road and #8 Middle Road from Hamilton. The trip takes 45 minutes. Cost is $3.75 in tokens. Buses leave every 15 minutes on weekdays and every half-hour on weekends. Buses run till midnight.

The Hamilton-Dockyard ferry takes half an hour. The first ferry leaves Hamilton at 6:45 am weekdays and at 9 am weekends. Fare is $3.75; for an additional $3.75 you can bring a cycle along.

See *Exploring The West End* for interesting stops en-route. Restaurants too!

Exploring the West End

Most will see Bermuda's West End from the window of a bus en route to the Royal Naval Dockyard, but if you enjoy exploring lovely parks and natural areas, get off the bus at Somerset Bridge.

The West End, comprised of five islands, is rather bucolic. Even Bermudians refer to it as "the country." There are few historic sites, but there is an old fort, a lovely church and excellent nature trails.

Somerset Island, the largest of the five, is connected to "the mainland" by Somerset Bridge, one of the earliest bridges built here. It has to be the smallest drawbridge anywhere. It is opened to allow sailboats to pass from Great Sound to Ely's Harbor (and the ocean).

There are two options for exploring from the bridge. You can hike (or bike or cycle) along the **Railway Trail**. The section between the bridge and Sound View Road is one of the prettiest. It cuts through limestone cliffs and vibrant foliage. At some points it hugs the coastline above Great Sound. The trail crosses **Scaur Hill Fort Park** (see below), where you can picnic, swim or fish. At South View Road you can return to Middle Road (left) or continue on the Railway Trail to Somerset Village (1¾ miles). This is not a strenuous hike, but rather a scenic stroll.

The other option is to follow **Middle Road** (here called Somerset Road) from the bridge to the village, making stops en route. Scaur Hill Fort Park – right off the road – encircles the 1870 fort, which was built by Royal Engineers to protect the Naval Dockyard. It was built on Somerset's highest point. Now the fort is surrounded by 22 acres of parkland where you can bike, picnic, swim and even fish. The fort still stands,

with massive stone walls and ramparts you can climb. It is open 9 am-4 pm daily.

Smaller, **Heydon Trust** is further west on Somerset Road. It has hiking trails marked by mowed grass. No cycles are allowed here. They must be left at the old chapel, which was noted on the 1616 survey of Bermuda. You can visit the old chapel, which was later a residence.

St. James Church has a dramatic setting on a high hill, offering a lovely ocean view, especially at sunset. The original wood church built here was destroyed by a hurricane and the present one, built in 1789, is still referred to by locals as "the new church." Noteworthy are the iron gates added in 1872 and the stunning spire built in 1880. You can visit the church and its graveyard daily from dawn to dusk.

The **Springfield and Gilbert Nature Reserve** is just outside Somerset Village. A trail leads through the five-acre reserve on the grounds of an early 18th-century plantation house. The house, its slave quarters and battery were under renovation at this writing, but should be open to the public by the time of your visit. Look for the old arched gateway on the right side of the road.

Somerset Village, a sleepy town, is built on the edge of Mangrove Bay. Years ago freight was brought ashore here and loaded onto horse-drawn trolleys. You can stop for lunch or cocktails at the Somerset Village Country Squire (see below). No special shops or sights in town.

Somerset Long Bay Park and Nature Reserve has a lovely beach that is particularly good for young children. You can snorkel, bonefish and picnic here. Adjacent to the beach, the reserve's mangrove pond attracts many species of migrating birds in both

spring and fall. It is off Somerset Road along Cambrige Road, but you can walk to it.

As you leave Somerset Village, you cross bridges to **Watford**, **Boaz** and **Ireland Island South**. They are pastoral, with tiny villages, farms, traditional residences and beaches along the coasts. Best for those with their own wheels.

Transportation Tips

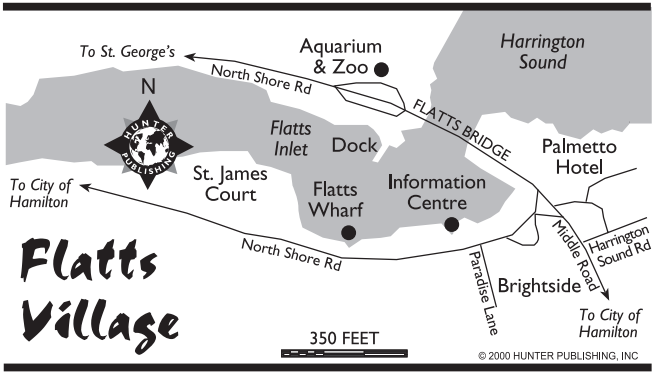
Buses #7 and #8 connect Hamilton with the Dockyard, making stops along Somerset Road. With a transportation pass, you can get on and off whenever you like. You can bicycle or cycle along Main Road (Somerset) easily since traffic is light. Bicycles and cycles are allowed on the Railway Trail (bicycles can be transported by bus). There is a ferry stop at Somerset Bridge and on Watford and Boaz Islands as well. Cycles are allowed on the ferry for an additional charge ($3.75).

Exploring Flatt's Village

Flatt's Village, east of Hamilton, sits on both sides of Flatt's Inlet, the narrow waterway that provides the only access to Harrington Sound. The sound looks like a lake, but is actually a saltwater bay.

The origin of the name "Flatts" is unclear, but it is believed to relate to the Dutch work "fleigh," which refers to a frame used to dry fish and tobacco.

The history of Flatt's Village dates back to the early 1600s, when Bermuda was colonized. One of the castaways from the wreck of the *Sea Venture* built a home here and it was recorded on the Somers' Chart of 1610. Soon after Bermuda was colonized, a bridge was



built linking the ribbons of land that edge the inlet. It was one of the earliest bridges built here and a modern bridge stands on the exact spot today. You can cross over the bridge but you can also walk under it by using marked access points on either side. The area under the bridge is popular for fishing since every fish entering Harrington Sound must traverse the inlet. From the bridge you can see Gibbet Island in the inlet's mouth. It was here that local "witches" were hung.

As with most coastal settlements, the area became a port and a haven for privateering and smuggling. But the inlet was too small for modern ships and Flatt's Village remained a picturesque fishing village until 1926, when the Aquarium was opened. A Natural History Museum and the Zoo were added later. Flatt's Village became a popular stop on the Bermuda Railway and soon homes, guesthouses, and shops opened in the area. A popular stop for families. Near Shelly Bay Beach and Park.

Bermuda Aquarium

The Aquarium is the most interesting of the three attractions, with over two dozen tanks arranged to show Bermuda's underwater ecosystem. You'll see more than 100 species of indigenous Bermuda fish in ocean and reef environments. Especially interesting is the 145,000-gallon tank, "North Rock." A clear acrylic wall that curves over the tank gives you the feeling of being underwater with the sea creatures. Drawings and descriptions identify the tanks' occupants. There are "audio wands" that provide a self-guided tour of the Aquarium.

★ NOTE

A Curator's Tour takes kids and adults on a 1½-hour tour of the Aquarium before opening hours. The guide leads the walk above the tanks, answering questions and even feeding the animals. It takes place every Friday at 8:45 am. $25 for adults, $15 for children, including continental breakfast and admission to the facility. ☎ 293-2727, ext 138.

Zoo

The Zoo is small, but has interesting exhibits, including a reptile section where Galapagos turtles are bred. The Primate enclosure has some rarely seen species and there is a "Please Touch Discovery Center" in the invertebrate center. There is a new Australian walk-through exhibit.

Natural History Museum

The Museum has geological displays that explain Bermuda's volcanic origins, its delicate ecology and an exhibit on whaling – an industry that thrived here. Hours: 9 am-4:30 pm daily. Adults $8, children 5-12, $4.

Sightseeing with Children

(or even without)

While there are still a few cottage colonies that "discourage" families with children, Bermuda has become a terrific family-vacation destination. Many of the resort hotels have special programs for children and baby-sitting service for those too young to be part of the program. This island offers a wide range of sports activities that children can enjoy, and there are kid-friendly museums and sights.

At the top of that list are the previously detailed **Bermuda Aquarium** (see page 102), **Natural History Museum** and **Zoo** (see above) in Flatt's Village, The **Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute**, **Hamilton** (see page 80) and **The Royal Naval Dockyard**, including the **Maritime Museum** (see page 92).

Crystal Caves

Bailey's Bay, Hamilton Parish
☎ 441-293-0640

For an eerie but rewarding experience, follow the wet, sloping walkway as it descends into a subterranean network of caves 120 feet below ground. Your guide will lead you over the pontoon bridges that traverse

Not for the claustrophobic.

the still lake. Cahow Lake is 55 feet deep, but the waters are so clear that you can see the bottom. The walls and ceilings are comprised of vast columns of hanging stalactites and stalagmites that create unique silhouettes. The guide's flashlight will suggest some to you while your imagination will see others. This eerie environment, millions of years in the making, was accidentally discovered in 1907. The cavern naturally maintains a water temperature of 65° and air temperature of 68° year-round. Hours: 9:30 am to 4 pm daily, April through October (10 am to 3 pm, November through March). Entrance fee.

Gibbs Hill Lighthouse

Near South Road, Southampton
☎ 441-238-0524

Rising 362 feet above sea level, the lighthouse has been flashing its beam since May 1, 1846, first powered by kerosene and then electricity. At the time of its construction in 1844, steel was not available for building purposes; as a result, Gibb's Hill Lighthouse is made of cast iron.

In the decade before the lighthouse was constructed, 39 vessels were wrecked off the western end of Bermuda, where the reefs extend more than 16 miles out to sea. Ships miles away can see its light and it is visible to airplanes over 100 miles away.

There are eight flights of spiral steps – 185 in all. On the way up, you get a history lesson and your reward at the top is a spectacular view of the entire island.

Closed February for maintenance.

Those with vertigo should head to the gift shop at the base. 9 am to 4:30 pm daily.

★ LIGHTHOUSE TEA ROOM

Drop in for a delicious breakfast or freshly made salads and sandwiches at lunchtime. Afternoon tea featuring homemade scones, pies and finger sandwiches hit the spot after the climb to the top. The Tearoom, independently owned, is open 9 am-5 pm daily. ☎ 238-8679.

Verdmont Museum

Collector's Hill, Smith's

Verdmont is the most attractive of the historical buildings that are part of Bermuda's National Trust. (Others are detailed in *St. George* section). Built atop a hill in 1710 in Georgian style, it was part of a 55-acre estate. Verdmont was occupied by several families in succession, but none made substantial alterations and the final owner, who lived here till 1951, was an eccentric who never added electricity or plumbing.

It has beautiful Georgia pine walls, supplied by privateers. The staircase and wood floors are made from Bermuda cedar and the furniture is finely crafted by local artisans. You'll see portraits of the owners.

The trust publishes a fine brochure about Verdmont, which you should pick up before exploring the house. There is a fee, which includes entrance to trust properties in St. George. Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, April through October; 10 am to 4:30 pm, November to March. Closed Sunday, Monday, holidays.

Note there is no kitchen here. Cooking was done in the cottage outside.

National Parks & Nature Reserves

Bermuda has made a special effort to protect, maintain and enhance the environment, so it's no surprise

to find that it has 79 parks and nature reserves. This ribbon of green traverses Bermuda and covers almost 1,000 acres.

Spittal Pond Nature Reserve on Smith's Road, Smith's Parish, is the largest reserve on Bermuda. The 34 acres here are the habitat of waterfowl and shorebirds. Its pond covers nine acres. There is a nature trail for hiking and bicycling; at some points the trail hugs the rugged coastline. Look for **Spanish Rock**, which locals believe was inscribed by an early explorer in 1543, and **Jeffrey's Cave**, a sea cave where an escaped slave lived. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset year-round. If you're lucky, you might spot one of Bermuda's wild flamingoes.

Jeffrey's Cave has the best bird watching on Bermuda.

Ferry Point Park in St. George's Parish is a popular camping (residents only) and picnicking spot. Its 22 acres include a tiny graveyard and a huge sinkhole called **Lovers' Lake**.

Walsingham Trust in Hamilton Parish is also known as "Tom Moore's Jungle." A fine restaurant stands near a giant calabash tree and there are caves and mangrove swamps.

Astwood Cove, South Shore Road, Warwick is a lovely public park with picnic tables and two beach strips. The larger beach (on your left) is great for snorkeling.

Natural Arches, Castle Harbour Beach, Smith's Parish, are two limestone arches carved by wind and water. They rise 35 feet above this beach, which belongs to Castle Harbour Hotel, but is not on the hotel grounds. There are also grottos to explore.

Bermuda's Forts

Bermuda's first fort, St. Catherine, was built in 1614 to guard the original capital, St. George. Over the

years, 55 forts were built in anticipation of enemies who never appeared. The earliest forts were built on the East End, which was settled first, and gradually others were built in other parts of Bermuda. You'll see remnants of them as you explore the island, but over a dozen have been restored so you can visit them. Some are within National Parks and Nature Reserves.

We'll point out some of the most easily accessible forts and tell you which bus to take. With a cycle all the forts are easily accessible.

Fort St. Catherine – Bus 1, 3, 10, 11 to St. George. The East End Mini-Bus will take you as well. It's a 20-minute walk from town. Includes a museum. Entrance fee. 10 am to 4 pm daily.

Alexandra Battery & Gates Fort – Bus 1, 3, 10, 11 to St. George. These two stand side-by-side on the coast about a mile from Fort St. Catherine. 8 am to 4 pm daily.

Fort Hamilton – Take any bus to Hamilton. Walk east along Front Street to King Street. Follow King Street to Happy Valley Road (about 100 yards). Fort Hamilton is on the right. 8 am to 4 pm daily. Free.

Whale Bay Battery, Southampton – Bus 7, 8 to West End. Exit at Whale Bay Road. Follow Whale Bay Road to the shore. Good beach. Free.

Scaur Hill Fort, Somerset – Bus 7, 8 to West End. Exit at Scaur Hill Fort, which is uphill from the road. Or exit at Somerset Bridge and follow the Railway Trail (north) to the fort. It's a lovely 15-minute walk. 7 am to 4 pm. Free.

Royal Naval Dockyard – Bus 7, 8 to last stop (Ferry as well). The Bermuda Maritime Museum (previously detailed) is in the fort. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, May through November (opens 10:30 am off-season). Entrance fee.

Perfumery Gardens

Bailey's Bay, Hamilton
☎ 293-0627

For both an aromatic and a learning experience, head to these flower-filled gardens and see how perfumes are made using local flowers. Watch as the essence of jasmine, oleander, Easter lilies, frangipani, passion flowers and others is extracted using an ancient "enfleurage" process. These essences become fragrances. The flowers, selected from the "working gardens," are grown specifically for this purpose. There are also lovely gardens that are landscaped for viewing, a nature trail and an orchid house, where over 500 varieties are grown. The perfumery is housed in a 300-year-old farmhouse.

You can buy the fragrances at the gift shop. They make great gifts.

Monday through Saturday, 9:15 am to 5 pm; Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. Closed Sunday, November through March.

Devil's Hole Aquarium

Harrington Sound Road, Smith's
☎ 293-2072

The natural pond of this collapsed cave is fed by the sea through a network of subterranean passages. It is a natural aquarium stocked with over 400 fish and huge green turtles. Denizens include moray eels, sharks and colorful reef fish, which can be fed using bait, but no hooks. Your children will be fascinated to see green turtles hatching. 10 am to 4:30 pm daily. Entrance fee.

Dolphin Quest

Southampton Princess Beach, Southampton
☎ 238-8000 ext. 6325

Children can interact with the bottlenose dolphins that live in this protected three-acre cove. There are

programs designed for children between five and nine years of age and others for those 10 to 16 years of age. Games and films are offered, as well as hands-on contact with the dolphins from a submerged dock. 8 am to 5 pm daily, year-round.

Unique Tours

BERMUDA LECTURES & TOURS
☎ 441-234-4082. Fax 441-238-2773

Less formal than taking a tour of the island by taxi and a lot more fun. Tim and Mary Ann Rogers have organized walking and bicycle tours around Bermuda. They are a husband and wife team and Tim is a scientist with a special interest in ecology. Together, they share the island's history, culture, architecture, geology and natural history with small groups of enthusiastic participants. They also give talks at hotels.

Most walks last one to 1½ hours and cover one to three miles. Bicycle tours last 1½ to two hours and cover three to six miles along tribal roads and the Railway Trail.

Groups are small and the tours are flexible.

Tim and Mary Ann will pick you up and drop you at your hotel. Expect to pay about $60 an hour.

ACTIVE LEISURE TOURS
☎ 441-295-6088 (also fax)

This is another group led by Bermudians. They organize walking, running and bicycle outings. There is a breakfast run every morning at 6 am if you are game.

NATURE ADVENTURES
PHOTOGRAPHIC/NATURE TOURS
☎ 441-295-2957

Weekdays, tours last five hours and begin at sunrise. Local photographer Tamell Simon leads intimate

one-of-a-kind tours with a maximum of six participants. Explore all parts of Bermuda, have lunch and have fun.

Bermuda Explorer's Program

This new series of tours and programs has been developed by the Bermuda Tourist Board. They have been designed to present travelers with an in-depth and offbeat look at Bermuda. Some popular tours include the following:

Art and Architecture Walk starts at the National Gallery (pre-opening) and then continues into Hamilton.

Out-and-About Bermuda is a program where the walk is specifically designed for you by local resident Jo Cook. She guides you to the unusual sights. Self-guided.

Gumba Trail is a cultural nature walk. The trail describes the connection between Caribbean Junkanoo dancers and the Goombeys of Bermuda, with commentary on island plant life.

Make arrangements for tours through your hotel or the Visitor's Service Bureau. They can tell you what other tours are available. Expect to spend about $25.

Shopping

For many visitors to Bermuda, shopping is as big a lure as the sun and sand. If you are one such person, you won't be disappointed. Front Street in Hamilton is lined with shops and there are others in St. George and in the Royal Naval Dockyard. Don't expect funky street markets where you can hone your bargaining skills, however. Bermuda's boutiques and small department stores are elegant and the merchandise they sell is high both in quality and in price.

Bermuda is not a "duty-free" island, but due to lower import tariffs and lack of a sales tax, you'll find prices 20-30% less than comparable items in the US. Because the island remains part of the British Commonwealth, goods imported from Britain are best buys. Savings are even higher on fine English bone china and crystal, Irish linens, Scottish tweeds and cashmeres.

Other imported items include French perfumes, Swiss watches, designer resort wear, leather goods, Italian silks and Danish silver, in designs and patterns that are often unavailable in the US.

Don't overlook the local perfumes made from the oils of native flowers such as oleander and jasmine, men's cologne in royal lime and bay rum, island handicrafts of cedar, ceramic and blown glass and local rums.

TIP

If you are planning to buy fine china, crystal or jewelry, check prices before leaving home. Your purchases can be shipped home. Review "Custom's Regulations" in the *Getting Ready* section, page 7.

Shopping in Hamilton

Hamilton is the island's primary shopping destination. Most shops have their flagship location here with branches in St. George's, the Royal Naval Dockyard, and in resort hotel shopping arcades. Hamilton's shops, set in restored Victorian buildings along Front Street and edging into arcades, atriums and alleyways, range from intimate boutiques to family-owned "department stores" that have been here for more than a century. Front Street and Reid Street also house several "Bermuda-style" shopping malls. They include 55 Front Street, The Emporium, Butterfield Place and Washington Lane, which is located off Reid Street.

Stores are generally open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday. They are closed on national holidays. Stores stay open till 9 pm on Wednesday in-season for Harbour Night festivities.

Major credit cards and US dollars are widely accepted.

Department Stores

Clustered on Front Street, Bermuda's three department stores have been institutions here for over a century. Family-owned and now run by the third and fourth generations of the founding families, they stock the largest selections of imported goods. Each has a specialty as well, so head to them first.

TRIMINGHAM'S
37 Front Street
☎ 295-1183
Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 9 pm, till 6 pm on Saturdays

Branches are located in the Sonesta Beach and Southampton Princess hotels and in St. George's, Somerset Village, the Royal Dockyard and Paget.

Trimingham's is Bermuda's exclusive purveyor of fine fragrance and cosmetic lines, including Boucheron, Estee Lauder, Christian Dior, Chanel, Clinique and La Prairie. It features an extensive collection of upscale sportswear by Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Polo, and Tommy Hilfiger, along with Trimingham's exclusive private label. Coach handbags and accessories, cashmere sweaters, silk scarves and fine jewelry round out the list of fashions. As for home fashion, tabletop collections by Noritake, Mikasa, Lenox and Royal Worcester are hard to resist. Home delivery service is available from some manufacturers.

A.S. COOPER & SONS
59 Front Street
☎ 295-3961
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm, till 6 pm on Saturdays

Branches are in the Hamilton Princess, Southampton Princess, Sonesta Beach and Elbow Beach Hotels, in St. George's and the Royal Naval Dockyard.

Make Cooper's your first stop if you are looking for fine china and crystal. You'll find the selection of patterns by Kosta Boda, Wedgwood, Aynsley, Balleek, Royal Doulton, Villeroy & Boch and Royal Copenhagen to be both irresistible and daunting, and best com-

plemented by Waterford and Orrefors Crystal. The Garden Room is overflowing with Bermuda gifts for the folks back at home or you can choose from among the Swarovski and Lladro figurines and Halycon Days enamel boxes. No less tempting is the jewelry department, with its dazzling assortment of exquisite gemstones, fine gold and silver jewelry and local charms. Nor have fashion and cosmetics been overlooked. Colorful pareos and batiks have made their way in among upscale fashions by Jones New York, Polo, Ralph Lauren and Gant. France is well represented in the perfume department, where you can choose among fragrances by Dior, Yves St. Laurent, Chanel, Hermes and Givenchy.

Branches are at York Street, in the Southampton Princess, in St. George's and the Royal Naval Dockyard.

H.A. & E. SMITH, LTD.
35 Front Street
☎ 295-2288
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm; to 6 pm on Saturdays

Undoubtedly, Bermuda's best-dressed residents have been shopping at Smith's since it opened on Front Street in 1889. Burberry rainwear and accessories, English-tailored blazers, Italian silk ties, Liberty scarves, Church shoes, Shetland, cashmere and cotton sweaters and fine leather handbags by Fendi and other top-of-the-line manufacturers are among the wardrobe staples featured here.

The street-level china department is small, but you'll find many Rosenthal pieces. French perfumes and cosmetics by Boitherm, Clarins, Lancôme and Shiseido are 20-30% less than in the US.

Fine China & Crystal

BLUCK'S
4 Front Street West (Pitts Bay Road)
☎ 297-0476

Bluck's branches are at Somers' Wharf in St. George's and at the Southampton Princess Hotel.

A "newcomer," only in business for 150 years, Bluck's is the only store in Hamilton that sells only fine china and crystal. Beautifully displayed on two levels are selections of china by Royal Worcester, Aynsley, Spode, Royal Doulton, Royal Crown Derby, Minton, Wedgewood, Chase Hermes and handpainted Herend porcelain from Hungary.

Here too you'll find Baccarat, Orrefors, St. Louis, Kosta, Boda, Daum, Lalique and Waterford crystal. Your purchases can be shipped home. A smaller shop is on Reid Street at Queen Street.

Arts & Crafts

Art lovers won't be disappointed. Bermuda's stunning sunlight, pastel hues, lush vegetation, stark white roofs and turquoise waters have been a source of inspiration to local and internationally acclaimed artists alike. Sculptors, painters and photographers are well represented in Bermuda's galleries and you'll be pleasantly surprised by Bermuda's vibrant artistic community. There are galleries in Hamilton and throughout the island. Stop into the Visitor's Service Bureau for a list of well-known artists and the addresses of their studios.

While galleries accept credit cards, many of the studios do not.

HERITAGE HOUSE
2 Pitts Bay Road
☎ 295-2615

Original works of art by well-known local artists are on display. English and European antiques and a wonderful collection of costume jewelry as well.

THE WINDJAMMER GALLERY
Corner, King and Reid Streets
Open 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Saturday
☎ 292-7861

The Windjammer Gallery actually makes its home in a flower-filled private garden.

Life-sized bronze sculptures by local artist Desmond Fountain are on display in the garden, while the coral-colored cottage is literally filled with works by well-known local artists, including Diana and Eric Amos, Sheilagh Head, John Kaufman, Maria Smith and Steven Masters, as well as Bermuda-inspired works by artists from Europe, the United States and Canada.

If you're not ready to invest in original art, you'll find a lovely assortment of local prints and cards, coffee table books and limited editions.

MICHAEL SWAN GALLERY
Butterfield Place, Front Street
☎ 296-5650
Open 10 am to 5 pm, Monday to Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm Sunday

Local artist Michael Swan evokes the island's gentle beauty in pastel colors and vivid greens, using airbrush and acrylic. A limited edition lithograph of your favorite island scene is a great way to bring a little piece of Bermuda home with you.

Linens

THE IRISH LINEN SHOP
31 Front Street
☎ 295-4089

Don't be misled by the name. The shelves at the Irish Linen Shop are overflowing with linens from all over

the world, carefully selected by the owners. What started as a hobby for two bored, middle-aged socialites has turned into the much-loved vocation of their offspring. Mother and son, Jane Popock and Jeremy Hartley, span the globe, bringing home hand-embroideries from Madeira, exquisite Belgian lace, Souleaido prints from Provence, Double Damask linen from Ireland, and luxurious linen bed sheets and cotton bath sheet from Cholet of France.

Jewelry

ASTWOOD DICKINSON CO. LTD.
83-85 Front Street
☎ 292-5805

For nearly a century, Astwood Dickinson has been creating lovely 18 kt gold replicas replete with colorful gemstones of the flora, fauna, landmarks and traditions that are unique to Bermuda. In addition to its "Bermuda Collection," Astwood Dickinson carries an impressive array of jewels and accessories by Tiffany & Co., Mont Blanc, Chimanto and Baraka, along with fine watches by Patek Philippe, Omega, Cartier, Baume & Mercier and Tag Heuer, and is the exclusive agent for Colombian Emeralds International.

SOLOMON'S FINE JEWELLERS
17 Front Street
☎ 295-1003

Exceptional quality and unique design have made Solomon's repeat recipient of the "Best in Bermuda" award. Dazzling gemstones of all colors of the rainbow are melded into gold and platinum to create unique pieces you'll treasure years after your visit. If wedding bells are in your future, you'll be pleasantly surprised by Solomon's collection of engagement rings and wed-

ding bands; they'll even work with you to create a design just for you.

WALKER CHRISTOPHER
9 Front Street
☎ 295-1466

If you've dreamed of owning a piece of jewelry designed for you alone, you may be able to make that dream come true at Walker Christopher. You can choose from among loose gemstones or pieces of eight and have them made into stunning pendants, earrings or even cufflinks. If you'd like something representative of Bermuda, why not pick out a charm or pendant in the shape of a longtail, onion, tree frog, sand dollar or hog shilling. Walker Christopher is also known for their special Christmas ornaments, original designs by Michael Good and Carrera y Carrera and their selection of art deco, art nouveau and estate jewelry.

Sweaters & Woolens

Also in St. George and at the Royal Naval Dockyard.

ARCHIE BROWN
51 Front Street
☎ 295-2928

Brown's is known for top-quality cashmere, Shetland and lamb's wool sweaters.

ENGLISH SPORTS SHOP
95 Front Street
☎ 295-2672

A fine selection of sweaters, plus British woolen jackets, skirts and scarves.

Boutiques

CECILE
15 Front Street West
☎ 295-1311

A favorite among the island's well-heeled society matrons, the racks at Cecile feature fine-quality swimwear, sportswear, business attire and formal evening wear for all occasions. Top European and US designs are well represented, including Yves St. Laurent, La Perla, Basler, Anne Klein and Gottex.

There is a branch of Cecile in the Southampton Princess Hotel.

LONDON SHOP
65 Washington Mall
☎ 295-1279

Designer fashions for men.

DAVISON'S
27 and 73 Front Streets
☎ 292-2083

Cotton sportswear for active sports like golf, tennis and sailing, plus leisure wear with a Bermuda touch.

CALYPSO
45 Front Street
☎ 295-2112

Sophisticated resort wear, beachwear and Italian leather goods.

TRUE REFLECTIONS
Reid Street and Parliament Street
☎ 295-9424

African motifs on print shirts, dashikis, colorful fabrics by the yard, carvings from Africa, jewelry from the Ivory Coast and batik and colorful print sarongs.

Gifts

ONION JACK'S TRADING POST
77 Front Street
☎ 295-1263

The jaunty "smiling onion" logo is the most popular decoration on T-shirts, caps, sweats, mugs and other Bermuda gift items. Here too are rum swizzle mixes, Outerbridge marinades that include the original sherry pepper sauce, hot b&b sauce and honey mustard.

RIIHILUOMA'S FLYING COLORS
5 Queen Street
☎ 295-0890

Owned by a Finnish family, it has the island's largest selection of T-shirts, beachwear and island crafts.

THE HODGE PODGE
3 Point Pleasant Road
☎ 295-0647

The Hodge Podge features unique gifts that are sure to delight the folks back home. Shell and coral jewelry, colorful T-shirts, and one-of-a-kind handicrafts are hard to resist.

Cigars

CHATHAM HOUSE
Corner Front and Burnaby Street
☎ 292-8422

In 1895 John A. Pitt opened shop on the corner of Burnaby Hill and Front Street, offering his clients fine Cuban cigars, along with glassware, furniture and pharmaceuticals. His great-grandson Charles William Pitt has kept the doors open and offers his

visitors a fine selection of cigars, including Cohiba, Punch, Romeo & Julieta, Partagas, and Montecristo, along with pipes from around the world.

TIENDA DE TABACO
Emporium Building
69 Front Street
☎ 295-8475

Cigar aficionados will feel the welcome at the Tienda de Tabaco. You can light up in comfort and sample your selection here with nary a glance from the non-cigar-friendly. In addition to a generous selection of "Cubans," the Tienda features cigars from the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Canary Islands.

Liquor

BURROWS, LIGHBOURN LTD.
87 Front Street
☎ 295-0176

If you'd like to take home a liter of spirits, you must order it 24 hours before your departure. The store will deliver your purchase to the airport or cruise ship.

There are branch stores in St. George's, Flatt's Village, Paget, Somerset and the Royal Naval Dockyard. Another good shop is Gosling Brothers.

> **NOTE**
>
> Shopping in St. George's is detailed below and at the Royal Naval Dockyard on page 96.

Shopping in St. George's

While St. George's does not have many shops, those it does have are attractive, well stocked and far less

crowded. Water Street, closed to traffic from 10 am to 4 pm, is fun to stroll and Somer's Wharf has an open-air mall you'll enjoy.

COW POLLY
Somer's Wharf

This is an upscale giftshop with unusual ceramic serving pieces and picture frames. They stock clothing with nautical and aquatic themes. Merchandise is imported from many regions.

BOOK CELLAR
Water Street

This sells both new and used books.

FRANGIPANI
Water Street

They specialize in colorful cotton resort wear, swimwear and accessories in unique island designs.

CRACKER BOX
York Street

They have straw and canvas bags, seashells, beach towels and mugs.

Best Places to Stay

Bermuda's lodging's are a heterogeneous lot. While many islands have only a limited number of hotels, Bermuda has a seemingly endless number and variety. They include posh resorts, small chic family-owned hotels, unique cottage colonies, housekeeping cottages and apartments, and some guesthouses. Interestingly, no two are identical, although they are invariably Bermuda pink or salmon colored. Within each category and within each hotel, accommodations vary in size and amenities. Many are composed of one- and two-story attached cottages (often called lanais here), strung along a beach or nestled on a hillside. Their grounds are large and the widely spaced cottages are surrounded by abundant flowering shrubs and trees. Because many of the hostelries are family-owned and -operated, the personal styles of management are highly visible.

But there are no high-rises.

Bermuda does not have a hotel strip per se. Instead, accommodations are scattered throughout the island, with the largest number along the south shore in Paget, Warwick and Southampton Parishes, near Bermuda's finest beaches and national parks. An early decision you'll have to make is what type of lodging you prefer. Since distances are short, deciding where to stay is more a matter of your preferred hotel style than location. There are a small number of hotels within walking distance of Hamilton, but none in the town itself. The East End, near St. George's, has only a few accommodations, but two large resorts are just across the causeway. The West End, called "the

country" by Bermudians, is home to several chic resorts and is only 30 minutes from Hamilton by ferry.

Although prices will vary widely depending on the type of accommodation you select, there are no inexpensive stops – no hostels or motels. The guesthouses and housekeeping apartments are your best bets for keeping costs down. Another money-saving option is to visit Bermuda in the "off-season."

Rates fall by as much as 30-40% between November and March. Each hotel sets its own off-season dates, so they do vary a bit. Bermuda is a semi-tropical island and temperatures rarely fall below 60° – terrific weather for golf, tennis and sightseeing, although the surrounding waters are too cold for swimming and other water activities. However, you will find several heated pools and a few indoor ones too. The government tourist office sponsors walks and special events in the off-season as well. Package tours are offered by virtually every hotel and cottage colony. These include honeymoons, golf, diving and off-season packages. Note that a few small stops close in January and February. Owners use the time to renovate, refurbish and relax.

Many hotels and cottage colonies offer meal-plan packages and some Dine-Around plans as well. These allow guests to eat in their hotel's dining room and restaurants as well as in the restaurants of partner hotels. Some offer more than one plan. Although a few meal plans are mandatory, most are optional. Think carefully before selecting any meal plan. Rates will vary with the plan you select.

Bermuda was once not a family destination. In fact, while some hotels still discourage young children as guests and others are "adults only," that has begun to change in recent years. Several resort hotels have

added children's programs and planned activities. Others will arrange for baby-sitting services.

Casual smart attire is expected in hotels after 6 pm and even in the daytime swimwear must be covered in hotel lobbies and eateries.

The sidewalks roll up early in Bermuda and much of the nightlife is hotel-centered. Hotels host rum swizzle parties, barbecues and buffets, as well as music and entertainment during and after dinner. Dancing to a local calypso band is popular, as are jazz groups.

★ TIP

Keep in mind that a 7.25% government occupancy tax is added to all hotel bills and an additional 10-15% service charge may also be added. This covers gratuities. Some small places add a daily energy surcharge.

Booking Your Accommodation

Accommodations vary within hotels and cottage colonies, so make sure you understand your options. Within two weeks of making a reservation, guests must leave a two-night deposit in order to confirm that reservation. A two-week cancellation notice is required for a full refund. Most hotels accept major credit cards, but there are some surprising exceptions. Those spots do accept personal checks.

Lodging Options

Cottage Colonies

These are the most interesting accommodations on Bermuda. Instituted in the early part of the 20th century, a cottage colony is a resort complex with a main house at its core encircled by clusters of cottages and beautifully landscaped grounds. The main house is the center of guest activity, with dining rooms and restaurants, lounge areas, libraries and open-air terraces where parties are held. The cottages are often attached two-story buildings with terraces and/or patios and a host of in-room amenities. Cottage colonies commonly have private beach strips, heated pools, putting greens and croquet courses. Some also boast spas and watersports centers. Those that don't can usually make arrangements for you with nearby sister resorts and local golf courses. Typically upscale, most cottage colonies offer elegance and privacy.

Resort Hotels

Scattered throughout the island, rather than all in one strip as is common in most Caribbean destinations, Bermuda's resort hotels are large and action-packed, each with a rhythm of its own. Some are traditional Bermudian, both in style and ambience, while others are so contemporary they would look right in Los Angeles. Whichever is your preference, you will be met with a host of amenities, both in your room and throughout the resort. Look for a variety of dining options, beach strips, pools, watersports centers, and tennis courts.

A few even have their own golf courses.

There are usually organized programs for children as well as adults. Shopping arcades are common and spa facilities and fitness centers have been added over the past few years. Resort hotels are generally the most expensive stops in Bermuda.

Small Hotels

Typically family-owned and managed, Bermuda's small hotels run the gamut from elegant hostelries offering many of the amenities of resort hotels to informal choices that cater to business travelers and families. Accommodations are often in cottages and there are dining facilities, pools and putting greens.

The owners and staff get to know every guest in small hotels.

Housekeeping Cottages & Apartments

Also known as efficiency apartments, these accommodations are money savers. Some can be rather isolated, however, making cycles a must. Typically, the cottages are at the top of the ladder in terms of size, decor and amenities. Similar to a cottage colony, they encircle a main house but food and guest activities are not offered. Apartments, often located on a main road, are usually smaller and more basic. All have fully equipped kitchenettes and you'll find food marts nearby. They offer maid service.

Great for self-starters seeking an informal getaway.

Guest Houses

Owners have converted old Bermuda manor houses and homes, often with stunning gardens, into bed n' breakfasts. They are informal, traditional in décor and comfortable. They serve breakfast. A few have in-room kitchenettes, while others have a communal kitchen for guest use. Some have a pool.

Hotel Dining Plans

My totally unscientific survey showed that more visitors to Bermuda book their room with a dining plan than any other island I've visited. Perhaps the lack of inexpensive transportation (buses stop running at 9 pm) accounts for this phenomenon. Virtually every hotel/cottage colony offers an optional dining plan. Some have several. Think carefully before selecting a dining plan. Choices are often limited and you may not like what is offered. Bermuda does have its fair share of good restaurants.

TIP

If you are leaning toward a dining plan, ask if your hotel participates in a Dine-Around program. If so, you will be able to try other hotel restaurants and even some downtown eateries. See below for details.

HOTEL PLANS	
EP (European Plan)	Room only
CP (Continental Plan)	Room & continental breakfast
BP (Bermuda Plan)	Room & full breakfast
AP (American Plan)	Room & all meals
MAP (Modified American Plan)	Room & breakfast, plus choice of lunch or dinner

Dine-Around Programs

The Bermuda Collection links the following hostelries: Ariel Sands, Cambridge Beaches, The Reefs, Stonington Beach Hotel, and Pompano Beach Club.

The Royal Dine Around Plan links the Hamilton Princess (three restaurants) with the Southhampton Princess (six restaurants).

The Newstead Hotel, Horizons and Cottages and Waterloo House are partners for dining.

A novel approach has been taken by Elbow Beach Hotel, which has joined with several Hamilton Restaurants in a Dine-Around program.

Hotel Prices

Note that cottage colonies include food in their rates.

The scale below is designed to give you a heads up about hotel rates in-season. They are based on a double room without taxes or a meal plan. Hotels have a wide variety of accommodations, so not everything fits neatly into the categories below.

Government tax and a service charge also must be considered.

***ALIVE!* PRICE SCALE**	
Deluxe	More than $250
Expensive	$175-$250
Moderate	$100-$175
Inexpensive	Less than $100

Cottage Colonies

CAMBRIDGE BEACHES
30 Kings Point Road
Somerset MA02 Bermuda
☎ 800-468-7300; 441-234-0331
Fax 441-234-3352
Website www.cambridgebeaches.com
MasterCard/Visa only
Deluxe

Tucked away on its own 25-acre peninsula facing Mangrove and Long Bays on Somerset Island, Sandy's Parish, Cambridge Beaches is Bermuda's oldest and most exclusive cottage colony. Built early in the century, it catered to royalty and international celebrities seeking elegance and privacy. It remains much the same today, but its guest list has expanded to include mature moneyed guests and upscale yuppies who return often. Cambridge Beaches "discourages" children under five, who can be guests only if accompanied by a private nanny and with prior arrangements. There is no program for older children either, but the facilities are fabulous for those children who are self-starters.

The resort is so self-contained that many guests never leave the property.

Eighty-one pink and white cottages are scattered throughout the property. They were not all built at the same time. Some were private homes and one is even believed to be 300 years old. Since they are not identical, Cambridge Beaches has the look of an upscale residential community.

There are 62 rooms and 20 suites. Upgraded annually, no two have the same furnishings, but do share beamed ceilings, carved woods, conservative colors and antique accessories. Some have whirlpools, oth-

ers fireplaces and bidets. Price is based on size, location and décor, so ask for specifics when reserving.

All the facilities at Cambridge Beaches are first-rate, starting with the clubhouse, which was once the home of a sea captain. Today, the lounge areas are very comfortable and include a library where you can byob (bring you own book) or borrow one from the well-thumbed selection, a tearoom, bar and open-air terrace. There are two restaurants on the property. The candlelit formal dining room, **Tamarisk**, serves continental food and its menu changes daily. Casual smart attire is required at dinner. The less formal Port O'Call has entertainment in season and there is often dancing on the terrace.

Cambridge Beaches has its own marina, where you'll find sail and motorboats, windsurfers, snorkel gear, canoes and kayaks. There are five pink sand beaches on the property, as well as a heated pool. On-land activities include tennis, a putting green and croquette. The hotel has special arrangements for its guests at the Port Royal Golf Club nearby.

The two-story recreation center houses "Aquarium Baths" with an indoor pool, hot tub, a well-equipped gym, an exercise pool and solarium. Here too you'll find "The Ocean Spa," staffed by European specialists, which offers health and beauty treatments.

This is a nice area for bicycle riders and taxis and cycles can deliver you to the Royal Naval Dockyard in 10 minutes. The hotel's ferry takes guests to Hamilton several times a week in-season and public ferry tokens are distributed free of charge during the off-season.

ARIEL SANDS
34 South Shore, Box HM 334
Hamilton HMBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-468-6610; 441-236-1010
Fax 441-236-0087
E-mail ariel@ibl.bm
Website www.arielsands.com
Expensive

A stainless steel statue of Ariel seems to dance across the rocks of Cox's Bay in Devonshire. She's joyful and carefree and it won't take long for you to feel that way too. Your inner clock will start to wind down as you turn off South Road, climb through the freshly landscaped grounds studded with coconut palms and a multitude of flowers, and pull up in front of the salmon-colored clubhouse.

Built in 1959 and totally redone in 1996, Ariel Sands is contemporary and informal in both décor and ambience. As is common in cottage colonies, the clubhouse is the center of guest activities. Here a small lobby is dominated by a circular Bermuda cedar table topped by freshly cut flowers. The rest of the clubhouse is designed for comfort. There's a spacious lounge area with pale yellow walls and plum-cushioned couches and armchairs. Placed to create small group areas, none is too far from the double-hearth fireplace, which is lit when cooler nights require it.

A handsome bar is adjacent to the lounge, as is the resort's restaurant, Caliban's. It serves Continental food and has a new menu daily. Very attractive, it is popular with local diners, a sure sign of above-average hotel fare. Both the lounge and Caliban's open onto a tabled terrace area used for outdoor dining and dancing.

The Tempest

Note that many works of art in the lounge depict scenes from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Local lore has it that Will was inspired by tales of early voyages from England to Bermuda. The theme is carried through the resort and guest rooms also carry names from the play.

Forty good-size rooms, in a dozen salmon-colored cottages spread between the clubhouse and the sea, are the typical accommodation, although there are several special one- and two-bedroom suites. Each room has a private entrance, a terrace or patio and a serene ocean view. Individually decorated and furnished, they share pale pastel walls with white trim, king or twin beds, island prints and colorful fabrics. All have air-conditioning, ceiling fans, and hair dryers. You'll spend many of your daytime hours on the resort's other 14 acres. The sandy beach is covered with seashells and there is excellent snorkeling in a quiet cove nearby. Sports facilities include two ocean-fed pools and a heated freshwater one, three tennis courts (two lit for night play), a putting green and hammocks stretched loosely between the palms. A recent addition, The Nirvana Spa (see page 71) is excellent.

Ariel Sands is a member of the Bermuda Collection (see page 129), a group of select hotels that have formed a dine-around program. You should certainly consider it.

★ STAR CONNECTION

Ariel Sands was built by the maternal grandfather of actor Michael Douglas. His mother, Diana Darrid's family has been prominent here for generations and the actor is active in management.

HORIZONS & COTTAGES
PO Box PG 198
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-468-0022; 441-236-0048
Fax 441-236-1981
E-mail horizons@ibl.bm
No credit cards
Deluxe

A member of Relais and Chateaux.

The most traditional of Bermuda's cottage colonies, Horizons is nevertheless very contemporary in its décor and ambience.

Horizon's main house was built at the turn of the 18th century as the manor house of a large plantation. Thirteen cottages housing 33 rooms and five suites (there are nine rooms in the manor house) are set amid manicured lawns and gardens, near the nine-hole mashie golf course and the citrus orchard. The cottages are not identical in size (some have as few as two rooms, while others have five) nor in décor. Some superior rooms have whirlpools and terraces, others have fireplaces, while others are split-level. They do share pale yellow walls, terra-cotta tile floors, white wicker and rattan furnishings, scatter rugs and terraces.

Ask for the accommodation information sheet before making reservations.

In keeping with an old Bermuda tradition, cottages have communal lounge areas, fireplaces, a covered

porch and a kitchen where the maid prepares breakfast, which is served in your room.

The main house is small but lovely, with cathedral ceilings, polished wood floors and oriental rugs. It has two comfortable lounge areas with working fireplaces, antique accessories, a gourmet French restaurant, a bar and cocktail lounge and an open-air terrace encircled by towering palm trees. Dinner is served in the restaurant or on the terrace. There is a small eatery at the pool. Horizons has a Dine-Around Program that includes its two sister hotels, the Newstead (nearby) and Waterloo House (in Hamilton).

The hotel has a heated pool, a 9-hole mashie golf course, a putting green and tennis courts. Guests here have special privileges at the Coral Beach and Tennis Club, a short walk away along South Road. It has a fine beach, many tennis courts, a fitness center, squash courts and a clubhouse restaurant.

Local bands entertain on the terrace before and after dinner. Dinner dress code is casual smart.

PINK BEACH CLUB & COTTAGES
PO Box HM 1017
Hamilton HMDX, Bermuda
☎ 800-355-6161; 441-293-1666
E-mail elitehot@aol.com
Website www.pinkbeach.com
Major credit cards
Expensive-Moderate

Pink Beach, Bermuda's largest cottage colony, is in Smith's Parish, a quiet area that is largely residential. Opened in 1947, its 91 units are housed in 25 pink cottages. A recently completed section has privately owned villas. The cottages are clustered, giving the resort the look of an upscale residential community. The property, small for Bermuda, has only 16

Pink Beach is closed January and February.

acres, but they are beautifully maintained. Less formal then other cottage colonies, Pink Beach guests include internationally known celebrities as well as families with young children.

Some of the cottages are single units, but most house several, ranging from studios with combined bedroom/sitting areas, bath and terrace and junior suites up to executive suites with two bedrooms, two baths and two terraces. All the accommodations are spacious, with dark maple furniture, double or king-size beds and a wall of sliding glass that opens onto a terrace or patio. Most have ocean views, but the garden view is lovely.

Many of the units have kitchens or share a common one.

As in all cottage communities, the clubhouse is the center of guest activity. At Pink Beach, not surprisingly, it features pink limestone with dark wood paneling, beamed ceilings and a fireplace in the oversized lounge. The formal dining room is in the clubhouse and, while the menu changes daily, it usually features fresh seafood. There is a less formal eatery at poolside, where dinner is also served. Breakfast is special. Place your order at night and the next morning a maid will serve it on your terrace. You can join other guests in the clubhouse if you prefer.

The resort was named for the two pink beach strips on the grounds and the snorkeling is rewarding. There is also a freshwater pool, sundeck, two tennis courts and a pro shop. The fitness center is well equipped. If you prefer golf, Castle Harbour is just a few minutes away.

There's lots of evening activity at the clubhouse, including live entertainment every night in-season as well as dinner dances and weekly swizzle parties. The hotel will get you a baby sitter should you require one.

WILLOWBANK
PO Box MA 296
Sandy's MABX, Bermuda
☎ 800-752-8493; 441-234-1616
Fax 441-234-3373
MasterCard/Visa Only
Moderate

This lovely estate on rugged Ely's Harbour in Sandy's Parish was purchased by a Christian Trust and converted into a family-oriented hotel cum retreat. Non-denominational morning services are held in the lounge and grace is said before meals. While guests need not attend nor participate in services or bible study should they choose not to, virtually all guests do so. Sixty-five rooms, in ranch-style buildings, are large and sparely furnished. All the necessities are provided, but no frills. All have private bathrooms, but no TVs or telephones.

Willowbank offers a different vacation experience.

Willowbank's grounds are beautifully maintained. Its six acres sit on the ocean's edge and there are two beach areas. Guests can snorkel over the coral reef just offshore. There is also a heated pool, two tennis courts, shuffleboard and a ping-pong table that is much used.

There is no bar, but guests can have liquor in their rooms. Meals, served in the Loaves and Fishes dining room, are family-style. They are announced by ringing an old ship's bell.

There are two lounge areas and a library in the main house. Guests gather in them for Bible study and informal discussions on religious topics. There is an excellent children's program in-season.

Evening activities include family films, hymn singing and entertainment by local gospel choirs.

Resort Hotels

SONESTA BEACH RESORT
PO Box HM 1070
Hamilton HMEX, Bermuda
☎ 800-Sonesta; 441-238-8122
Fax 441-238-8463
Major credit cards
Deluxe-Expensive

With a stunning location right on the Southampton Shore and a host of guest activities and facilities, the Sonesta aims to meet a myriad of vacation needs and it succeeds. It is very popular with families who appreciate its "Just for Kids" program, along with those who love the beach (it has three) and also with those who could use some pampering (it has Bermuda's finest spa).

Some of the Sonesta's 360 rooms and 34 suites are in the six-story main building, but most are in two attached wings that stretch in a semi-circle from the central building. The modern building has a small lobby, several restaurants, a shopping arcade and game rooms.

Rooms have contemporary furnishings in light woods, peach and green fabrics and a host of amenities, including bathrobes, a mini-bar, in-room safe and iron. Only the art gives a hint of Bermuda. Rooms have private terraces facing the water and a few in the Bay Wing have patios that front on the beach.

The Sonesta spreads over 25 acres so you'll appreciate the shuttle bus that takes guests up the steep hill to South Road (the local bus stop) and to Cross Bay Beach, the beach farthest from the hotel. There is an outdoor freshwater pool and sundeck as well as a

unique solar dome-covered pool. The water sports center at the beach adjacent to the pool rents gear, offers scuba lessons and organizes snorkel, scuba and fishing trips. The Sonesta's six tennis courts have lights for night play and a pro is available for lessons. There is a steam room and exercise room and an excellent spa that offers massages, cosmetic and fitness programs and European-style treatments. The spa staff organizes morning walks, aerobics and step classes (at additional charge). Guests receive a daily activity schedule, as do kids who register for "Just for Kids," the Sonesta's children's program, which is offered from June through Labor Day (September).

Sit-down dining options include **Lillian's**, an Italian eatery, and the **Sea Grape Terrace**, serving lunch and candlelit dinners. **The Café**, in the shopping arcade, serves buffet breakfasts and soups, sandwiches and pizzas for lunch. Afternoon tea is complimentary.

Ask about special honeymoon and off-season package tours.

The **Boat Bay Club**, off the lobby, has after-dinner entertainment and dancing. Buffets and BBQs are held weekly in-season.

ELBOW BEACH BERMUDA
PO Box HM 455
Hamilton HMBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-344-3526; 441-236-3535
Fax 441-236-8043
Major credit cards
Deluxe-Expensive

Named for the lovely pink sand beach on which it was built in 1908, the Elbow Beach Hotel was for many years Bermuda's signature resort. It faded badly over the years, but a vast renovation program was undertaken by the Rafael Hotel Corp., the new management firm, with stunning results.

Pastel yellow is the operative word for the five-story main building. White shutters and terraces stand out against the pale outer walls. Interior walls, throw rugs on the highly polished wood floors and leather sofas in the various lounge areas and library are also yellow. The effect is sunny and warm.

Elbow Beach draws a diverse clientele that includes families with children, young married couples and many repeat visitors. Elbow Beach is the prime stop for college students on spring break.

TIP

Bermuda is promoted by the tourist office here as a spring break destination. There is lots of horseplay and loud fun during that time, so you may want to check the dates.

There are almost 300 rooms and suites here, but, because they are scattered over the resort's 50 acres, it seems more intimate. Some rooms with those white terraces are in the main house, but the majority of the accommodations are in cottages, duplex cottages and lanais (attached cottages). Be sure to ask for a terrace that faces the ocean. Many are near the pink sand beach that runs for over a quarter-mile (part of it is a public beach). The cottages are named after flowers and the floral theme is carried over to the bedcovers, drapes and chairs. Rooms have a make-up mirror, safe, robes and slippers, hair dryer and cable TV.

When you tire of the sand, you can head to the heated freshwater pool that has a shallow play area for children. Both the beach and pool have food and bar service. There are five tennis courts and a pro shop. You can play croquet or visit the putting green. Elbow

Beach Hotel has arranged for its guests to play at the private Riddell's Bay Golf Club.

Also on the property, **Fritholme Mansion** has been refurbished and is now a freestanding first-rate spa. Treatments include massages, body wraps and facials. There is an exercise room.

There are several dining options here. The **Sea Horse Grill** is a formal dining room, while the **Café Lido**, near the beach, is romantic and less formal. The **Sand Bar Bistro** (in-season only) and **Mickey's**, both at the beach, offer even more options. Off-site dining is available through the hotel's Dine-Around Program. It includes several excellent restaurants in Hamilton where you can charge dinner to your room.

Many guests head to the **Verandah Bar** for good jazz, after-dinner drinks and dancing. Sunday beach parties and BBQs feature music and entertainment. Many Bermudians take part.

MARRIOTT'S CASTLE HARBOUR RESORT
PO Box HM 841
Hamilton HMCX, Bermuda
☎ 800-223-6388; 441-293-2040
Fax 441-293-8288
Website www.ehi.com/travel/carib/bermuda/berm0003.htm
Deluxe-Expensive

The Castle Harbour Resort boasts the most dramatic setting on the island. The hotel, on 250 magnificently landscaped acres, is bordered by Castle Harbour and Harrington Sound and backs onto the 18-hole Castle Harbour Golf Course. Located in the exclusive Tucker's Town area, it has a long Bermudian tradition. It was first opened in the 1930s as a stopover for steamship passengers traveling between the US and Britain, but had fallen on hard times when Marriott

Corp. took over management in 1986. Marriot embarked on a costly renovation project adding 100 new rooms in the process and they have continued to refurbish the hotel and the grounds with obvious results. Castle Harbour is once again elegant. Don't miss the mahogany-paneled 18th-century Salon, which is filled with Chippendale and Queen Anne furniture. The formal dining room adjacent to it features china that reproduces the original set used in the 1930s.

There are guest rooms in the main building, but the bulk of the 375 rooms and 18 suites are located in the extended wings that are attached to the core by glass-enclosed walkways. The two-story Golf Club wing overlooks the course, while the terraced nine-story Harbour View wing overlooks the water. Although rooms vary in size and some have balconies, furnishings are pretty much the same throughout – rather traditional British, with heavy draperies, ruffled valences and matching bedcovers. In-room amenities include air-conditioners, hairdryers, irons, satellite TV and voice mail.

We've already mentioned the 18-hole golf course, but there are many other sports options here. There are three swimming pools, one of which is Olympic-length and popular with lap swimmers. There are also six tennis courts, and a well-equipped health club. There are two beaches on the grounds, but the hotel's best beach is a five-minute shuttle bus ride away. Known for its secluded caves and coves, it is the island's largest private beach. The watersports center is located here.

There are three restaurants at the hotel and others at the Golf Course and beach. The **Mikado** is the only Japanese restaurant on the island (some others serve sushi). The hotel's formal **Windsor Room** offers Mediterranean food with a menu that changes daily.

Blossoms, a discothèque, is in the lobby, as is the **Bay View Lounge**, where there is nightly entertainment.

There is a shopping arcade on the lower level. The hotel also offers laundry and dry cleaning and even a coin laundry service.

SOUTHAMPTON PRINCESS
Box HM 1379
Hamilton HMFX, Bermuda
☎ 800-223-1818; 441-238-8000
Fax 212-832-1564
E-mail reservations@princesshotels.com
Major credit cards
Deluxe-Expensive

Southampton Princess is a member of the "Leading Hotels of the World."

Set back from South Road, the six-story main building of the Southampton Princess sits atop the island's highest point much like a princess on a throne. It dominates the area.

Its 600 rooms and over 30 elegant suites are set in wings that stretch from the central building like tentacles from an octopus. This design allows each room to have a private terrace facing either the island's north coast (bay) or its south coast (ocean). Rooms, which are not identical in size nor in furnishings, would nevertheless have been at home in 18th-century England. They have plushy upholstered couches and armchairs, carved lightwoods and coral bedspreads and drapes. The hotel was renovated recently to the tune of two million dollars.

A renovation creation, the **Newport Club** is a 55-room executive wing that offers private check-ins, continental breakfast, morning newspapers, fax machines and VCRs. plus a private lounge. Be specific when making reservations since rooms vary greatly

in location and view. Some suites have kitchens and custom-made furniture.

When you step out of your room, you'll be in a vacation village. The hotel has facilities on both the north and south shores. A jitney bus runs all day and well into the night to whisk you from the beach to the pool and on to the golf course or one of the hotel's six restaurants. Four of the restaurants are considered among the island's best eateries. They will be reviewed in the *Best Places to Eat* section. The **Newport Room** is in the main building, the **Rib Room** near the golf course, and the **Waterlot Inn** on a cliff overlooking the south shore beach. Those selecting MAP dining can choose a different restaurant nightly and sample those at the Hamilton Princess as well.

Space does not permit us to list all the facilities here (we need to cover other hotels as well), but among them are a private ocean beach, where you can rent watersports gear and arrange scuba trips; two pools (the indoor version in a greenhouse-type structure complete with heated water flowing over a waterfall) and an 18-hole golf course. There are all-weather tennis courts with lights for night play, a well-equipped fitness center and a European Spa and Beauty Salon. There is a children's program in-season. There is a nightclub, boutique shops and theme-night dinners and parties. You can hop the private ferry to the Hamilton Princess, which is a 10-minute walk from town.

Keep in mind that there are fees for each of these activities and costs can add up quickly. More is not necessarily better and, if you are looking for a quiet respite away from city bustle and conventioneers, the Southampton Princess may not be your cup of tea. But you should drop by, maybe for afternoon tea for it is the most traditional resort hotel on the island.

HAMILTON PRINCESS
PO Box HM837
Hamilton HMCX, Bermuda
☎ 800-223-1818; 441-295-3000
Fax 441-295-1914
E-mail reservations@princesshotels.com
Website www.princesshotels.com
Major credit cards
Deluxe-Expensive

Those who select the Hamilton Princess as their Bermuda stop, can enjoy a "two-fer" vacation. On one hand, the hotel, which opened in 1884, is just a 10-minute stroll from downtown Hamilton and its shops, sights and restaurants. On the other hand, guests can hop the private ferry at the hotel dock, speed across Hamilton Harbour and enjoy the beach, golf course, restaurants and other facilities at its sister hotel in Southampton.

Many business travelers stay here to take advantage of the relationship with the Southampton Princess..

This hotel, on the waterfront, was Bermuda's first tourist hotel. Inspired by Princess Louise, Queen Victoria's daughter, who wintered here in 1883, it was named in her honor. The hotel's impressive guest roster includes Mark Twain and scores of European royalty and international celebrities. Their photos are on display near the Tiara Restaurant.

You can't appreciate the pink frosted "wedding cake" architecture of the hotel from the front entrance on Pitts Bay Road, but from the dock you can see the two-layered wings that extend from the colonial core. Most of the 413 guest rooms and 60 suites are located in the wings. Elegant and stately, the hotel was renovated and refurnished in 1996 using bold, colorful fabrics. Most rooms have a terrace that faces the water. A concierge floor for business travelers was a new feature of the renovation.

Although it lacks a beach, the Princess does have lovely grounds that encompass a small Japanese floating garden, a marina, a heated freshwater pool and sundeck, as well as a smaller saltwater pool. There is a putting green, a beauty salon and health club.

A beehive of activity day and night, the central building is home to three excellent restaurants. **Harley's Bistro** at poolside is informal, **Colony Pub** serves great steaks and music with dinner, while the **Tiara Room** on the second level is quite formal. The two Princess hotels offer a Dine-Around Program that is very popular. The Jubalani Repertory Company, a local theater group, performs in the Gazebo Lounge. You can eat dinner here as well.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

The Grand Dame of Bermuda hotels, the Hamilton Princess also looms large in history. During World War II, the British Navy commandeered the basement and it was here that they cracked the codes used by German subs in the Atlantic.

GROTTO BAY BEACH
HOTEL & TENNIS CLUB
11 Blue Hole Hill, Bailey's Bay
Hamilton Parish CR04 Bermuda
☎ 800-582-3190; 441-293-8333
Fax 441-293-2306
E-mail gro@bspl.bm
Expensive-Moderate

Far from the maddening crowds, if such things existed on Bermuda, Grotto Bay Hotel is located on

Ferry Reach, a quiet, deep-water cove on Castle Harbour, not far from the airport. Most guests are young couples, especially honeymooners and families with children looking for resort-style amenities, a less-formal environment and prices that are more affordable than the other resort stops. Grotto Bay scores high on all three counts.

Grotto Bay is set on 21 beautifully maintained acres, planted with hibiscus, oleander and bougainvillea. Although the resort has 200 rooms, it retains an air of intimacy because rooms are not clustered in wings of the clubhouse, but rather scattered throughout the property in three-story lodges, some with as many as 30 rooms and others as few as 15. Rooms have private patios or terraces offering either water or garden views. Decorated in contemporary style using light woods and colorful fabrics, all have cable TV, mini-bar and air-conditioning. The lodges do not have elevators, but some patio level rooms are wheelchair-accessible. There are also three suites that have two bedrooms and baths, as well as comfortable sitting areas.

TIP

Keep in mind that some of the lodges, especially those near the beach, are a hike away from the main house and there is no shuttle.

The hotel takes its name from the two romantic illuminated grottos nearby. You can swim in the waters of Cathedral Cave and explore the other, Prospero's Cave, on foot.

The primary attraction of the Grotto Bay Beach Hotel is its deep-water cove, **Ferry Reach**, because it allows the hotel's watersports center to offer sailing,

windsurfing, pedal boats, water skiing and parasailing. They organize scuba and snorkel trips, give lessons and rent all necessary gear. Other water action takes place at the beach (on Castle Harbour) and the freshwater pool and hot tub. The swim-up bar sees lots of activity as well.

There are four tennis courts (two can be lit for night play), an exercise room and a game room. There is a children's activity program in-season and a play area year-round.

The food at the dining room and beachfront is nothing to write home about, but the buffets and poolside parties are fun. There is evening entertainment.

Many guests stroll to Bailey's Bay nearby and eat at The Swizzle Inn (see *Best Places to Eat*).

Private Clubs

Bermuda has two private clubs that have accommodations and first-rate sports facilities. The only catch is that an introduction by a member is normally required. Some hotels here have made arrangements for their guests to use the facilities at these clubs and other visitors can gain entrance because they belong to similar clubs in the US.

Tennis buffs will enjoy the eight clay courts at the **Coral Beach and Tennis Club** on South Road, Paget. It also has two squash courts, an 18-hole putting green, a fitness center with personal trainers and a private beach. Guests at Waterloo House, Horizons and Cottages and the Newstead Hotel have privileges here. ☎ 441-236-2233, fax 441-236-1876, e-mail coralbch@ibl.bm.

Golfers will prefer the **Mid-Ocean Club**, a private estate that overlooks Castle Harbour. It has an 18-hole golf course, golf shop and clubhouse, with lockers and a golf pro. There are also two tennis courts and three beach areas. ☎ 441-293-0330, fax 441-293-8837.

Small Hotels

THE REEFS
56 South Road
Southampton SN02 Bermuda
☎ 800-742-2008
Fax 441-238-8372
E-mail reefsbda@ibl.bm
Website www.TheReefs.com
Major credit cards

How does a small independent hotel compete with its larger sisters who offer many more resort-style amenities? The answer is to augment those amenities you do have with personal service and a staff that takes great pride in "their" hotel and have invariably worked here for years.

The Reefs, a small resort hotel on a south shore dominated by its neighbors, the Sonesta Hotel and the Southampton Princess, has done just that. Its central clubhouse is high on the hillside that overlooks Christian Bay, home to the hotel's private beach.

The salmon-colored club house is home to the contemporary **Terrace** dining room, a comfortable lounge/bar sitting area, and a tabled terrace for casual evening dining and sunset imbibing. The weekly BBQs, rum swizzle parties and buffets are centered here. The outdoor pool and sun-deck are on the upper clubhouse level as well.

Although there are only 58 rooms and eight suites at The Reefs, there is surprising variety in the type of accommodation available. A few rooms are at poolside or on the lower level of the clubhouse, but most are in cottages (called lanais) set on terrace levels between the clubhouse and the beach. The deluxe and premier rooms are spread along a ridge overlooking the sea. The lanais were built at angles that offer each private terrace some privacy where guests can enjoy a quiet breakfast. The suites, in cottages, have one or two bedrooms. All the accommodations have colorful island fabrics, light rattans and fresh flowers.

The hotel has two tennis courts and you can snorkel just offshore at the miniature coral reef. There is also a fitness center.

The Reefs is a fine choice.

The Terrace dining room off the lobby changes its menu daily and the beachside eatery, **Coconuts**, is famous for its four-course fixed-price dinners. The Reef's Dine-Around Program is something to explore, as are its "Endless Summer" and "Take Five" package tours.

POMPANO BEACH CLUB
36 Pompano Beach Road
Southampton SB 03 Bermuda
☎ 800-343-4155
Fax 441-234-1694
Major credit cards
Expensive

Bermuda's small hotels are family-owned and -managed. They take pride in getting to know their guests and in the fine service they offer. Pompano Beach Club gets straight As. The Lamb family, owners of this informal seaside resort, make sure that each arriving guest gets a friendly personal welcome. That may explain why so many guests return.

The hotel has a stunning location on a limestone hilltop that overlooks a rugged beach. Another plus, at least for some guests, is the Port Royal Golf Course, Pompano's closest neighbor.

The crescent-shaped clubhouse is made of pink and white stone. It houses the main dining room, a British-style pub, and the cozy lounge and fitness center, both of which overlook the ocean.

Pompano Beach participates in the Bermuda Collection Dine-Around Plan, which allows guests to sample the food at other small hotels. *See page 129.*

The two-story guest cottages are etched into the shrub-covered hillside. The 34 rooms and 20 one-bedroom suites are refurbished annually. Deluxe rooms have sitting areas and large private patios or balconies. All rooms have refrigerators, cable TVs, irons and in-room safes.

Pompano's **Cedar Room** restaurant serves international specialties and is known for its inventive menus and outstanding chefs. Menus change daily. Breakfast is served here as well. Weather permitting, you can also dine on the terrace. In keeping with its informal style, jackets and ties are only required three nights a week. Lunch is served at poolside.

There is a small conference center adjacent to the clubhouse. The heated freshwater pool and a hot tub are also nearby. Another hot tub is near the beach. Four tennis courts and two can be lit for night play. There are two beaches on the property and an active watersports program. You can rent snorkel gear, windsurfers, paddleboats, Sunfish and small glass bottom boats there. When the Lambs decided to enlarge their beach, they built a breakwater. It created an interesting phenomenon. At low tide, you can wade into waist-high water and keep going for the length of two football fields. Great for shelling. Don't forget the fitness center and the government-owned golf course nearby. There is shuttle service through the property and the hotel is not far from Somerset Bridge and the

ferry to Hamilton. The number seven bus stops at the entrance as well.

There is entertainment virtually every night in-season and weekly rum swizzle parties, buffet dinners and barbeques. Jazz nights, calypso bands and dance music make for camaraderie among the guests, who range from young couples to mature ones.

STONINGTON BEACH HOTEL
PO Box HM 523
Hamilton HMCX, Bermuda
☎ 800-447-7462; 441-236-5416
Fax 441-236-0371
E-mail bav@triton.bercol.bm
Website www.bermuda-best.com/StoBeach
Major credit cards
Expensive-Moderate

Just down the road from Elbow Beach, Stonington Beach Hotel is an interesting and unusual choice. The hotel is operated by the Hospitality and Culinary Institute of Bermuda and is located on the grounds of the College of Bermuda. Many staff persons are students in the final stages of training for positions in the hotel industry. Supervised by experienced staff, they are invariably enthusiastic and helpful.

Their classroom is a well-run, attractively furnished hotel with one of Bermuda's best hotel restaurants, the **Norwood Room**. There are 64 rooms housed in pale blue two-story lodges that are terraced along the hillside between the main house and the beach. Rooms are identically furnished with highly polished woods, blue and yellow quilted bedspreads, heavy drapes and comfortable love seats. There are small refrigerators and in-room safes. All have balconies or patios facing the ocean. A few rooms are accessible for handicapped guests.

The hotel entrance, from South Road, passes the impressive college buildings en route to the main house. The grounds are beautifully landscaped and maintained. The main house has several comfortable lounge areas with wicker chairs pillowed in blue florals and plush sofas. There are colorful throw rugs on the highly polished floors. There is a working fireplace and large-screen TV set in the well-stocked library and a step-down bar nearby. Lunch and dinner are served in the Norwood Room off the lobby. The continental menu changes daily and service is impeccable.

Live music accompanies dinner every night.

Stonington Beach Hotel shares a south shore beach strip with Elbow Beach resort. The rectangular pool and sundeck are just above the beach and there are two all-weather tennis courts nearby.

The hotel often has champagne or rum swizzle receptions for guests. Jazz is the music of choice most evenings.

ROYAL PALMS HOTEL
PO Box HM 499
Hamilton HM CX, Bermuda
☎ 800-678-0783; 441-292-1854
Fax 441-292-1946
E-mail rpalms@ibl.bm
Website www.royalpalms.bm
Major credit cards
Expensive-Moderate

This charming small hotel, with only 15 guest rooms, has won the Bermuda Government Tourism award for "best small hotel" two years running. It's easy to see why. Its owners are a brother and sister team, Richard Smith and Susan Weare, who grew up in the inn business. Their parents owned Oxford House, a small inn nearby that is still run by their mother. Hands-on managers, they are there every day to see

that everything is running smoothly and that each guest is enjoying Bermudian hospitality.

The coral-walled estate house, marked by bright white shutters and a typical white roof, was built on tree lined Rosemont Avenue, Pembroke Parish, in 1903 as a private home. The family rooms were later converted into guest rooms, all of which are spacious and attractively decorated. They have polished wood floors, Oriental rugs, floral bed covers to match the armchairs and lovely fresh flowers.

Not all the rooms are in the main house.

There are also mini-suites available in cottages in the tranquil gardens behind the house. These have kitchen facilities. Guests enjoy a full continental breakfast (included in the room rate) in the breakfast room or on their verandah.

The hotel has a freshwater pool and lounge chairs on its sundeck, but you'll have to hop a bus or cycle for the 15-minute ride to the south shore beaches and parks.

Guests congregate on the front porch rocking chairs or wicker armchairs for pre-dinner cocktails. Many pay the additional $43 fee to eat at Ascot's Restaurant and Bar, which is on the premises, but under separate ownership (see page 180). Hamilton and its scores of restaurants is just an easy stroll away.

WATERLOO HOUSE
PO Box HM333
Hamilton HMBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-468-4100; 441-295-4480
Fax 441-295-2585
E-mail waterloo@ibl.bm
Major credit cards
Expensive-Moderate

This unique inn on the outskirts of Hamilton, a member of the Relais and Chateaux organization, has an

interesting history, which is reflected in the "grew-like-Topsy" architectural style. The original stone manor house was built in the early 1800s, but it was remodeled and enlarged in 1815, then renamed to honor Napoleon's defeat. The incongruous pink archway and steps that lead to a delightfully flower-filled inner courtyard were added later. A small stop with only 28 rooms and six suites, it nevertheless has many nooks for guests to enjoy, both indoors and out.

The lounge, furnished with striped rust and yellow couches, yellow footstools and lacquer tables, has a working fireplace, oil paintings and antiques. The library is a secluded spot, but if you crave company head to the game room or bar nearby. The inn sits on the edge of Hamilton Harbour and its large open-air terrace, where you can enjoy breakfast or afternoon tea (both included in your rate). Local jazz groups, calypso bands, a harpist or piano player entertain here after dinner.

The terrace gets the late day sun.

Most rooms are in this main building, but a few are in stone buildings near the pool and sundeck.

Many guests here are business travelers who appreciate the in-room fax machines and modem outlets. Rooms are a bit frilly with chintz drapes and valances, dust ruffles, antique furniture and prints of flowers or country scenes. They contrast with the ultra-modern bathrooms that have dressing areas and whirlpools.

Known for its fine dining in the formal Wellington Room for dinner and breakfast and lunch in the Poinciana Terrace, Waterloo House's guests can dine-around at sister restaurants in Horizons and Newstead. Guests can also enjoy the beach and sports facilities at the private Coral Beach and Tennis Club. Shuttle bus service is provided.

THE NEWSTEAD HOTEL
PO Box PG 196
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-468-4111; 441-236-6060
Fax 441-236-7454
E-mail newstead@ibl.bm
Major credit cards
Expensive

You've seen elegant manor houses such as the main house of the Newstead Hotel in scores of British films. You wouldn't be surprised if Miss Marple were among the guests near the fireplace in the spacious lounge or if you found her quietly knitting in the book-lined library nearby. But appearances can be deceiving, for the Newstead is all Bermudian in service and ambience. Owned by a local family, it caters primarily to mature guests, many of whom have vacationed here for years. Families with children often stay in the cottages during school holidays.

When the manor opened as a guesthouse in the 1920s it could only accommodate a dozen guests, but Newstead has expanded over the years, taking over several nearby properties, including some private homes, now used as cottages. The manor house and the cottages are linked by brick and stone walkways that thread through garden areas of flowering plants, shrubs and tall trees.

The hotel's 50 rooms and two suites are located both in the manor house and poolside cottages. Those in the house are traditional in decor, while the cottages have a more contemporary look. Carved mahogany chests with brass handles, island prints on the beds, couches and walls are common. Sliding glass doors lead to private verandahs that face the harbor.

Because Newstead is off the beaten track (there is no local bus service) many guests opt for the MAP dining

plan. They then can eat dinner in Newstead's dining room or in the Dine-Around partner restaurants at Horizons and Cottages or Waterloo House.

Both Horizons and Waterloo have noted dining rooms.

Guest activities at the manor house include rum swizzle parties, calypso bands on the outer terrace and a popular jazz buffet brunch on Sundays.

Guests spend their daylight hours at the heated pool and sundeck, in the sauna, or at the private dock on the sound for swimming or sailing. There are two clay tennis courts and a putting green. Those looking for more action take advantage of Newstead's sister resort, the Coral Beach and Tennis Club on the south shore. Ten minutes away by cycle or taxi (30 on foot), it has a lovely beach, lots of tennis courts and a clubhouse restaurant for lunch.

As previously noted, there is no local bus service to this north shore of Paget, but the Paget Ferry stops at Hudson's Landing adjacent to the hotel. It takes 10 minutes to reach Hamilton. At the ferry stop, you'll find **'Brellas**, a restaurant operated by Newstead Hotel.

FOURWAYS INN
PO Box PG 294
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-962-7654; 441-236-6517
Fax 441-236-5528
E-mail Fou@bspl.bm
Major credit cards
Expensive

Best known for its restaurant, which many consider among the island's best, Fourways Inn is also a luxurious, if tiny, hideaway. Its five two-story cottages and charming main house are tucked into the greenery near the restaurant. Stone walkways lead from the main house, which was built as a private home in 1727, to each cottage. All face the central heated pool.

No guests under age 16 at Fourways.

Each cottage has a patioed lower-level suite and a deluxe second-story room. Tastefully furnished in formal muted shades; each has a marble bathroom, kitchenette and cable TV. Nice touches include bathrobes, slippers and a fresh fruit basket when you arrive.

It is centrally located, so you can hop a bus for the 10-minute ride to Elbow Beach or you can stroll to the Paget Ferry for the ride to Hamilton.

HARMONY CLUB
PO Box PG 299
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 888-427-6664; 441-236-3500
Fax 441-236-2624
E-mail reservations@harmonyclub.com
Website www.harmonyclub.com
Major credit cards
Moderate-Expensive

Harmony Club is all-inclusive.

Many of the boutique hotels in Bermuda were built as private homes. That is the case with the two-story pink and white building that is the heart of this 68-room hotel. Harmony Club has several unique features. It is Bermuda's only all-inclusive resort, which means that your rate includes transfers, accommodation, buffet breakfasts, English tea, unlimited drinks, dinner, evening entertainment, a double scooter, taxes and gratuities. Throw in your airfare and you know just about how much your vacation will cost in advance. Another unusual feature here is the "couples only" policy. Couples, however, is loosely interpreted to mean any two people sharing a room – both being over 18 years old.

The all-inclusive policy means all the guests share common meal times and spend time together in the main house at cocktail parties, in the game room and

in front of the large screen TV. This fosters a friendly club-like atmosphere that carries over to the pool and putting green.

The 68 guest rooms in two-story attached cottages are scattered haphazardly through the property, which has immaculately manicured formal gardens, complete with gazebos. None is far from the main house. Refurbished in 1997, rooms are large and have many modern features as well as Queen Anne-style furniture. All but a dozen rooms have terraces.

A welcome bottle of champagne greets each arriving guest.

The main house has tile floors covered by area rugs, comfortable sofas and rattan-backed easy chairs. Candlelit dinners are served in the **Casuarina** dining room, where the menu changes daily and dress code is casual smart, but there are informal buffet dinners, BBQs and cocktail parties as well. English tea service is popular in the afternoon. Guests regroup after dinner at the **Gombay Lounge** for after-dinner entertainment.

Harmony Club has a freshwater pool, a sauna and hot tub, as well as two tennis courts and a putting green.

While there is no beach here, guests can use the beach at Stonington Beach Hotel, where there are changing rooms, beach chairs and umbrellas. Those who play golf can play at the Belmont Golf Course without paying green fees.

TIP

One disadvantage of an all-inclusive policy is that it tends to confine guests to the hotel. Since you've already paid for your meals, you may hesitate to sample other island restaurants.

ROSEDON
PO Box HM 290
Hamilton HMAX, Bermuda
☎ 800-742-5008; 441-295-1640
Fax 441-295-5904
E-mail rosedon@ibl.bm
Website www.rosedonbermuda.com
Major credit cards
Moderate

Rosedon, housed in a 1906 manor house, is usually filled with business travelers who want to be near Hamilton but prefer a lower key place than the Hamilton Princess, which sits across Pitts Bay Road.

Perched on a rise and surrounded by a beautifully landscaped garden, the 43-room Rosedon is known for its fine service and attentive staff. Although the hotel does not have a restaurant, breakfast and afternoon tea are served on the spacious verandah or at poolside.

There are four guest rooms in the colonial main building, with the other guest rooms in two-story buildings encircling the heated pool and sun deck. Rooms are individually decorated. Some are colonial, while others are contemporary, but all are tasteful, have mini-bars, coffee makers, irons and hair dryers. Most have terraces or patios.

There are two large lounge areas, filled with antiques, in the main house. You can have your tea here, serve yourself at the honor bar and catch a film on the large-screen TV.

The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to the Stonington Beach Hotel, where you can use the beach chairs, umbrellas and changing rooms at no cost. There is a reduced fee for playing tennis.

WHITE SANDS HOTEL & COTTAGES
PO Box PG 174
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-548-0547; 441-236-2023
Fax 441-236-2486
E-mail wsands@ibl.bm
Website www.whitesands.bermuda.com
Major credit cards
Moderate

Grape Bay, the south shore beach strip closest to Hamilton, is home to the White Sands Hotel and its three housekeeping cottages. The 32 guest rooms are in the three-story main house and in the salmon-colored buildings adjacent to it. The superior units in the cottages are family-sized, each with two or three bedrooms, a living room/dining area, a fully equipped kitchen and a private balcony facing the sea. Accommodations in the main house are somewhat smaller and do not have balconies, but many have ocean views. Others face the terraced garden. These rooms have wall-to-wall carpeting, modern furniture in light woods and a small refrigerator.

Male guests must wear jackets in the hotel after 6 pm.

The dining room, called **The Captain's Table**, has carpeted floors, comfortable bentwood chairs and colonial British décor. Large picture windows allow for ocean views. **The Terrace Club**, at poolside, serves lunch, while **The Sandbar**, a British-style pub, serves drinks and finger foods. You can have breakfast served in your room (it's included in your rate). Tea is served each afternoon near the fireplace in the cozy lounge or, weather permitting, on the terrace.

The thick white sand of the beach, a two-minute walk downhill, is inviting, as is the heated freshwater pool and sun deck. There are no organized activities and no other sports amenities here, but the hotel does have weekly rum swizzle parties and dancing at the

poolside patio. Many guests head to Hamilton, which is only two miles away.

Housekeeping Cottages & Apartments

MARLEY BEACH COTTAGES
PO Box PG 278
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-637-4116; 441-236-1143
Fax 441-236-1984
E-mail mar@bspl.bm
Major credit cards
Moderate

Our son, who is never far from his reggae collection, was disappointed to learn that Marley Beach Cottages was not named for the great reggae singer. But it mattered a lot less when he stood atop the hill gazing down at the pink beach and rippling waters he would enjoy during our stay. Little-known outside Bermuda, except for the annually returning guests who want to keep it that way, Marley's is a great buy.

Its 13 salmon-colored cottages are terraced into the hillside leading down to the shore. Because the resort spreads over three acres, they are widely spaced. Each has a suite and a studio apartment. They are rented separately but can be combined into a single unit. Suites have both sitting and sleeping areas, plus fully equipped kitchens, while the studios have kitchenettes, allowing guests to prepare meals in and dine on private ocean-view terraces. Units include hibachis, microwave ovens and electric coffee pots. There is a family cottage that sleeps six, as well as executive

suites with fireplaces. There is daily maid service and you can arrange for fresh food deliveries from the mart nearby. Cycles are delivered and picked up as well.

The hotel has a heated freshwater pool and whirlpool in addition to its lovely beach.

Another great plus is location. Marley is only one mile from Warwick Long Bay, with its beach, and Astwood Park, two of Bermuda's finest natural areas.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

Scenes from several Hollywood films, including *Chapter 2* and *The Deep*, were shot here, but fame hasn't affected the genuine friendliness of the owners and staff.

Not a great stop for young children, but wonderful for those who just want to sit back on the beach and listen to reggae disks.

ST. GEORGE'S CLUB
PO Box GE 92
St. George's GEBX, Bermuda
☎ 441-297-1200
Fax 441-297-8003
E-mail stgeorgeclub@ibl.bm
Website www.StGeorgeClub.com
Major credit cards
Moderate

If you'd like to stay on Bermuda's east end, your choices are rather limited, but St. George's Club should be at the top of that short list. The 69 condominium units, all individually owned, are set on 18 acres, most of which are part of the 18-hole Robert

Trent Jones-designed golf course. Because this property was not specifically designed for short-term guests, it has several features that will prove helpful, such as the **Ample Hamper** convenience store that sells everything from food to beach gear.

The large and airy condos, in two-story attached white cottages, have one or two bedrooms, a living room with a dining area, fully equipped kitchens, including a dishwasher and very modern bathrooms. Each has a private patio or terrace off the master bedroom. Most owners seem to have opted for pale pastel walls, floral couches and bed covers and island prints.

The club has three freshwater pools (one heated), three tennis courts (two can be lit), a putting green and shuttle bus service to Achilles Bay Beach nearby.

The three-story clubhouse, renovated in 1996, is home to the gourmet **Margaret Rose** restaurant, the **Sir George Pub**, lounge areas and the aforementioned Ample Hamper.

You can walk into St. George's from the club, which sits on Rose Hill (off York Street). Keep in mind that not all the units are rented and it is most difficult to stay here during holiday periods, when owners tend to use them.

ANGEL'S GROTTO
PO Box HS 81
Smith's HSBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-550-6288; 441-293-1986
Fax 441-293-4164
E-mail ang@bspl.bm
Major credit cards
Moderate

Among the most popular housekeeping apartments in Bermuda and a consistent winner of the tourism department's Hibiscus Award, Angel's Grotto is on the

south shore of Harrington Harbour and ironically near Devil's Hole Aquarium. This is a quiet residential area in Smith's Parish. The three white structures were originally built as a private home and then housed Bermuda's hottest nightclub. Converted into accommodations by Judy Hart in 1981, it has only seven units, of which no two are alike. There's a honeymoon suite and a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment for families or two couples traveling together. All are air conditioned, have fully equipped kitchens and combination living/dining rooms furnished in pale pastels. There are barbeque pits for guest use and a large patio for dining. The staff is helpful and friendly.

Although you can swim in the deep water off the small dock, most guests walk or cycle to John Smith's Bay nearby.

ASTWOOD COVE
49 South Road
Warwick WK07, Bermuda
☎ 800-637-4116; 441-236-0984
Fax 441-236-1164
E-mail ast@bspl.bm
No credit cards
Moderate

The main house of this attractive all white hostelry was built in 1710 and was the home of a local dairy farmer until 1966. At that point he retired and decided to renovate his home to accommodate guests. He built two apartments and then added six others in a two-story building nearby. The current owners, Gaby and Nicky, took over in 1997, adding more studios and suites, a swimming pool, a recreation building and a sauna.

Astwood Cove now boasts 20 self-contained units with air-conditioning and heat, fully equipped kitchenettes

and private patios or porches. The suites have a king-size bed in the bedroom and a sleeping sofa in the living room that can sleep two children. The studios also have hide-a-beds. All are spotless, with beamed ceilings, tile floors, light cedar furniture and bathrooms with showers, but not tubs. There is daily maid service and a self-service laundry on the premises.

A communal building has a large-screen TV, an outdoor terrace with tables and an exercise machine. There are barbeque stoves at different points for guest use. There is a market nearby that delivers. You can cross South Road to the small beach Astwood Cove shares with Mermaid Beach Club. You can also hop the #7 bus and head to Astwood Park or Long Bay just a few minutes away.

SKY TOP COTTAGES
PO Box PG 227
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 441-236-7984
Fax 441-232-0446
E-mail skytop@bermuda.com
Website www.bermuda.com/skytop/
MasterCard/Visa only
Moderate

Set on a hilltop above Elbow Beach, this is a terrific choice if you don't mind the uphill hike from the bus stop on South Road.

A cycle would be a big plus here.

There are 11 apartments here in four cottages that are encircled by two acres of gardens, manicured lawns and a citrus grove. The units are named for local flowers. If you find yourself in Frangipani, you'll have a one-bedroom apartment, while those in Honeysuckle will have a three-level unit. There are studios too. All are refurbished annually and individually, and tastefully decorated. All have fully equipped kitchens and cable TVs. Studios have only shower

stalls, while apartments have tubs. Barbeque grills are available for guest use. Although there are no planned activities here, guests seem to bond on the lounge chairs set on the shady lawn.

MERMAID BEACH CLUB
PO Box WK 250
Warwick WKBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-441-7087; 441-236-5031
Fax 441-236-8784
Major credit cards
Moderate-Inexpensive

If your vacation fantasy is "all shorts and T-shirts all the time," consider the Mermaid Beach Club, which is adjacent to South Road in Warwick.

Two-story pink motel-style attached buildings are set in a line along the rocky shore facing a small private beach. A palette-shaped swimming pool and sundeck are on a terrace nearby.

The property was developed in the 1940s and has recently been renovated. Some of the units were converted into privately owned condos, but they continue to be rented to short-term guests when they are available. There are 50 units and half of them have kitchenettes (all the new condo units have them). The hotel rooms are furnished with gray and mauve paisley bedcovers and contrasting mauve armchairs. Condos are individually furnished. Ground-floor rooms have patios, while second-story rooms have terraces. All face the water.

The main building houses the **Old Ship Pub**, where in-season parties are held and where there is entertainment, usually a local band. Here, too, the **Jolly Lobster Restaurant** serves dinner – mostly seafood. The #7 bus stops at the hotel entrance and you can

Breakfast and dinner are available.

easily walk to Paw Paws, a local eatery. (See *Where to Eat,* page 210).

SURFSIDE BEACH CLUB
PO Box WK 101
Warwick WKBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-553-9990
Fax 441-236-9765
E-mail surf@bl.bm
Major credit cards

Set on a hillside that slopes to a private beach, Surfside is another good housekeeping choice. There are 10 apartments in a poolside building and 23 studios in hillside buildings. They are all spacious, and each has a fully equipped kitchen (even a microwave), a cable TV and a porch. Some are carpeted, while others have tile floors. Half the rooms have shower stalls only. Guests can use the communal barbeque grills. There is a small café on the property that serves breakfast and lunch (in-season only).

There is a small lounge in the lobby and a pool, hot tub and fitness center. The lush gardens are crossed by stone walkways and amid the gardens are lookout points where you can see fish swimming in the shallow waters below.

More Housekeeping Choices

The apartment complexes are rather basic.

The housekeeping choices that follow have similar amenities to those previously mentioned. In every case, the cottage housekeeping communities are better values.

GREENBACK COTTAGES
Box PG 201
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 441-236-3615
Major credit cards
Inexpensive

A short walk to the Paget ferry.

This old Bermuda home and its eight green cottages are set in spacious lawns on the water's edge in Salt Kettle. Most units have kitchenettes.

BRIGHTSIDE APARTMENTS
Box FL 319
Smith's FLBX, Bermuda
☎ 441-292-8410
No credit cards
Inexpensive

The 12 self-contained one- and two-bedroom units have air-conditioners and contemporary furnishings. Near the marina in Flatts Village, it is within walking distance of the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo. Swimming pool.

PARAQUET GUEST APARTMENTS
PO Box P6173
Paget PGBX, Bermuda
☎ 441-236-5842
No credit cards
Inexpensive

An informal complex with 12 guest apartments, it sits along South Road. There is a main house and motel-style units. A market and Elbow Beach are nearby.

SANDPIPER APARTMENTS
Box HM 685
Hamilton HMCX, Bermuda
☎ 441-236-7093
No credit cards
Inexpensive

Informal accommodations with kitchens, living rooms and cable TV. Pool and sundeck. This is a motel-style building with 14 units.

Guest Houses

AUNT NEA'S INN AT HILLCREST
PO Box GE 96
St. George's GEBX, Bermuda
☎ 441-297-1630
Fax 441-297-1908
E-mail auntneas@ibl.bm
No credit cards
Moderate

This charming B & B is set in a pale yellow double gallery house off Old Maid's Lane in historic St. George's.

Romance at Aunt Nea's

Built early in the 18th century, it was the home of the Irish poet Thomas Moore for a short time in 1804. He fell in love with the young lady who lived next door, Nea Tucker, and penned several poems about his feelings for her. The gated house and garden is set back from the alley named for her.

The inn has since undergone many renovations. Today's inn has 10 individually furnished rooms. They have canopy or four-poster beds made of tropical woods and wrought iron, cedar chests and armoires. Tasteful accessories add to the comfort. Several rooms have Jacuzzis and all are air-conditioned.

Breakfast brings home-baked breads and muffins and afternoon tea is served as well. A small swimming pool has been added, but most guests head to Tobacco Bay Beach nearby, where the secluded coves offer great snorkeling.

OXFORD GUEST HOUSE
PO Box HM 374
Hamilton HMBX, Bermuda
☎ 800-548-7758; 441-295-0503
Fax 441-295-0250
Major credit cards
Moderate

You can't stay much closer to Hamilton than Oxford House, on Woodbourne Avenue, a five-minute stroll to Front Street's restaurants and shops. Most small houses and guesthouses on Bermuda were originally manor houses, but this building was actually constructed to house guests in 1938 by a French couple. You'll notice French architectural touches, from the white and beige entrance portico to the urn-shaped balustrades. A curved inner staircase leads to the second-story rooms. Bright and airy, the dozen rooms can sleep two, three or four guests. Each is individually decorated and named for a parish in Bermuda. They share high ceilings, dressing areas, color-filled fabrics and private bathrooms, with shower stalls only.

The Smith family, owners of the Royal Palms Hotel (see pages 153 and 181), own this guesthouse.

The second floor also has a sunny sitting room where you can read. If you run out of reading material, head to the bookcase nearby, which is crammed with all sorts of paperback books you can borrow.

Breakfast, served in a small room near the entrance hall, usually features fresh fruit, freshly baked scones and muffins and cereals. The breakfast room has a fireplace; fresh linens cover the tables; and guests relax in Chippendale chairs.

LOUGHLANDS GUEST HOUSE & COTTAGES
79 South Road
Paget PG03, Bermuda
☎ 441-236-1253
No credit cards
Inexpensive

Built in 1920, this stately white mansion with 19 rooms is set on a hilltop above South Road in Paget and surrounded by nine acres of landscaped grounds. It is the largest guesthouse in Bermuda. The current owners hale from Cornwall, England, and had many of their personal antiques shipped here. You'll find them in the formal common areas. If you like antiques, you'll appreciate the grandfather clocks and the Wedgewood, Baccarat and Waterford crystal pieces in the breakfronts. Guest rooms have four-poster beds and antique chests. Most rooms have private baths, but six must share.

Breakfast is served in an oversized dining room and includes cereals, fresh fruit, croissants, Danishes and coffee. There is a communal guest refrigerator, plus a swimming pool and tennis court. You can walk to Elbow Beach from Loughlands.

Other Guest Houses

The guesthouses that follow are smaller than those previously described, but they have many of the same amenities. No credit cards.

FORDHAM HALL
Box HM 692
Hamilton HMCX, Bermuda
☎ 800-537-4163
Inexpensive

An informal guesthouse with 12 rooms, Fordham Hall is on Pitts Bay Road within walking distance of Hamilton. Breakfast is served on a window-enclosed verandah.

EDGEHILL MANOR
Box HM 1048
Hamilton HMEX, Bermuda
☎ 441-295-7124
Inexpensive

This old Bermuda home houses nine guest rooms. Some deluxe rooms have terraces. The manor is surrounded by lovely gardens and has a swimming pool. You can walk to Hamilton from Edgehill. Continental breakfast is served buffet-style.

GREENE'S GUEST HOUSE
Box SN 395
Southampton SNBX, Bermuda
☎ 441-238-0834
Inexpensive

This modern home in Southampton Parish has six guest rooms. They have beautiful views of Great Sound, refrigerators, cable TVs, VCRs and coffeemakers. There is a swimming pool.

SALT KETTLE HOUSE
10 Salt Kettle Road
Paget P601, Bermuda
☎ 441-236-0407
Inexpensive

A small informal guesthouse with six rooms in cottages fronting Salt Kettle Cove in Paget. You can walk to the Paget ferry from here. Shared kitchen facilities.

Best Places to Eat

Having enough to eat will not be your problem here since Bermuda, though a very small island, is home to over 150 restaurants. While few would stand out in New York or St. Barts, there is no question that the "stiff upper lip" cuisine of even 10 years ago has been replaced by outstanding restaurants serving ethnic cuisines developed by local chefs trained in Europe, Asia and the US. Many feature local seafood, which is fresh and plentiful.

A few of the exceptional restaurants are in hotels.

Music and entertainment are common in upscale eateries, particularly in-season.

Bermuda's gastronomic traditions reflected the cultural influences of the people who colonized it – the British, followed by slave laborers from the West Indies and Azorean Portuguese. Dishes like Shepherd's pie, fish n' chips, conch stew, shark hash, red bean soup and chorizo sausages dominated every menu. In recent years, Italian and French specialties have grown in popularity, as have sushi, Indian curries and steaks. Restaurant menus reflect these influences so visiting gourmets can be adventurous.

Dress Codes

Ambience is another area where Bermuda has adapted to changing moods. While still more formal than any Caribbean Island or US resort, the dress code has relaxed a bit. "Casual smart" is the key word for the great majority of restaurants. That means men

must wear a jacket, collared shirt, long pants or Bermuda shorts (with knee socks) and shoes. Jeans, cut-offs, T-shirts and sneakers are not acceptable at dinner.

Only a small number of restaurants require jacket and tie.

The bad news is that those are among the island's finest. Women will feel comfortable in casual chic attire and resort wear at even the finest restaurants.

The dress code is observed even in hotel restaurants.

While many people enjoy dressing for dinner, it is clear that most visitors prefer casual dining. To that end, hotels host BBQs, buffets and theme nights, where the dress code is relaxed. Some restaurants do the same.

★ NOTE

While we've seen McDonalds and Pizza Huts in Moscow, Beijing and Istanbul, there are none in Bermuda. Save for one Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet in Hamilton, there are no fast food eateries here. Local restaurants serve pizza, burgers and fried chicken, however.

Hotel Meal Plans

Faithful readers of Alive Guides know that we rarely endorse hotel meal plans. We believe that competition between independent restaurants makes for better food and ambience and we also want to encourage our readers to meet locals rather than other visitors. But many visitors to Bermuda do opt for a meal plan and virtually every hotel offers several. These include:

- Full American Plan (FAP) – three meals daily

- Modified American Plan (MAP) – breakfast and dinner daily
- Bermuda Plan (BP), which includes breakfast in your rate
- European Plan (EP) – no meals

Your room rate will reflect the plan you select. Cottage Colonies and hotels have dining rooms (where the menu changes daily) for those on a meal plan, but several also have a dining facility or two that cater both to guests and non-guests. These are often on the beach or golf course. They also offer Dine-Around plans, where guests can eat at partner hotel restaurants or downtown eateries on some nights. Inquire about these options when making reservations.

While we still favor eating in a variety of venues, we must admit that restaurants here are expensive and so is transportation. While you can take a bus to Hamilton or St. George for dinner, you'll have to take a cab back and taxi rates are high. Most guests, dressed for dinner, do not feel comfortable arriving on a cycle.

Taking advantage of Bermuda's natural settings, you'll find restaurants overlooking the ocean and bays, where you'll dine in flower-filled gardens and open-air terraces. Good food, fine wines and lovely settings all combine to slow your inner clock.

Dining Hours

Restaurants, even those in hotels, serve lunch from 11:30 am-3 pm. They then close until 6 pm, when they reopen to serve dinner till 10 or 11 pm. Only a few pubs serve all day long. You can sample afternoon tea, which is common here. It includes small sandwiches and pastries. Bermuda is not a late-night town. Most

restaurants are closed by 11 pm, although bars stay open till 1 am.

Dining Savvy

- Restaurants are small. Reservations are prudent in-season and a good idea year-round. Some restaurants require them.
- Restaurants add a 15% service charge to your bill, so you need not tip an additional 15%. This is often stated on the menu. If you are unsure, ask!
- Most restaurants accept major credit cards, but a few small local spots do not. You can use traveler's checks as well as US dollars.
- Virtually every restaurant has a vegetarian dish or two.
- Check on the dress code when making reservations.

It is common to leave a small additional tip for good service.

Alive Price Scale

Designed to give you some idea of prices, the Alive Scale is based on a three-course dinner for one person without drinks, service or taxes.

ALIVE! PRICE SCALE	
Very expensive	Over $60
Expensive	$50-$60
Moderate	$30-$50
Inexpensive	Under $30

Exceptional Dining

FOURWAYS INN RESTAURANT
1 Middle Road, Paget
☎ 236-6517
Dinner only 6:30-9:45 pm
Lunch – Peg Leg Lounge 12-3 pm
Very Expensive

Many consider the Fourways Inn Restaurant to be Bermuda's finest. When the walled garden estate was built in 1727, it quickly gained a reputation for the extravagant dinner parties held here.

It was named "fourways" because there were originally four entrances to the property.

The 10-cottage inn and its restaurant have been elegantly restored and renovated yet still retain their old-world charm. They are centrally located in Paget at the "Amen Corner," so-called for the church that stood there.

A stately grandfather clock and a maitre d' clad in Bermuda shorts greet guests at the one remaining entrance. Take a peek at the photo gallery to see the international celebrities who've already eaten here. Follow the host through the stone archways and down the steps to the stunning dining room. It has cedar and stone walls, red and gold carpets, pink table cloths and lots of hanging plants. In high season you can dine on the covered terrace as well.

Fourways bakes its own breads and a selection of them are set on the table soon after you are seated. The staff, many of whom are European, is helpful and attentive. Steven Young is the executive chef and his menu is classically French, but with an eye toward local seafood.

A unique, albeit expensive, hors d' oeuvre is the Beluga caviar served with blinis and toast. Other open-

ers include a salad of smoked salmon with green asparagus in a yogurt orange dressing or one with local arugula and warm new potatoes in a grain mustard dressing.

There are daily specials.

The house specialty is the "escalope de veau au beurre de citron vert." Simply put, look for thin slices of veal in a butter-lime sauce. Other specials include sautéed rockfish on mashed potatoes and Chateaubriand for two. Vegetarians can enjoy the leek and feta cheese tart or the grilled shitake mushrooms with goat cheese. Be sure to leave room for a Dark and Stormy (black rum and ginger) soufflé for dessert.

The wine list is exceptional; the house boasts of 9,000 bottles and 375 selections in their cellar.

The Peg Leg Lounge occupies the space that was the original kitchen. It has a large stepped and whitewashed fireplace. Lunch is served there. The lunch menu is not French, but rather soups, salads, sandwiches and a few hot dishes. After dinner, guests retire to the lounge for drinks, classical music on the piano and fine cigars.

TIP

If you prefer a non-smoking environment, head to the Long Room nearby.

Fourways makes it easy to forget your cares. Reservations are a must for dinner in-season (a day or two in advance if possible) and don't forget your jacket.

ASCOTS RESTAURANT
24 Rosemont Avenue (Royal Palms Hotel) Hamilton
☎ 295-9644
Lunch weekdays 12-2:30 pm
Dinner nightly 6:30-10 pm
Expensive

Typically, when we find an exceptional hotel, there is a fine restaurant on the premises. That remains true here. Ascots, a delightful restaurant, boasts a romantic, tranquil setting in the award-winning Royal Palms Hotel. Ascots is independently owned, however, and its charming hands-on owner Claudio hails from San Remo, Italy. He is intimately involved in all aspects of Ascots, so don't be surprised to find him preparing a house specialty at a nearby table.

The Royal Palm Hotel, on a quiet residential street, is housed in a century-old house surrounded by flowering gardens. Ascots is in the rear of the hotel fronting a large garden area. Drinks are served from a large cedar bar that has polished brass trim. It's located in a sitting area that looks like a British country living room with comfortable sofas, Queen Anne chairs and hunting scenes on the walls. You can have drinks here as you wait for your table in one of the cozy inner dining rooms. You can also dine al fresco on the covered verandah or on the open-air garden patio. Wherever you sit, you'll find flickering candles, starchy clothes, fine china and fresh flowers.

The provincial cuisine is innovative and there is so much variety that even fussy eaters will find something to enjoy. You can start with fresh Bermuda wahoo gravlax or lobster ravioli. There are several salads and soups if you prefer to start with something lighter. Then move on to honey raspberry duck, broiled veal chops or Thai marinated tuna steaks. There are vegetarian dishes as well. Desserts are legendary here, so it will be difficult to choose between the cappuccino creme brulée, the tangerine parfait or the apple and berries crumble served with rum.

Although Ascots is within walking distance of Front Street, you shouldn't walk it at night. A taxi can be called if you don't have a cycle. Casual smart attire.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

Rather than a typical Sunday brunch, Ascots has a Sunday Carvery, which is served from 12-2:30. The foods are not eggs and bacon, but salads and hot or cold meats and fish.

WATERLOO HOUSE
Pitts Bay Road, Hamilton
☎ 295-4480
Lunch 12-2:30 pm
Formal tea 4-5 pm
Dinner 7:30-9:30 pm
Very Expensive

Waterloo House serves Continental and Bermudian cuisines.

Everything about Waterloo House is distinctive. Just a short stroll from the heart of Hamilton, this century-old private home now houses a unique inn and a gourmet restaurant that serves Bermudian and Continental fare. It rivals any of the independent restaurants on the island. Its setting is special as well. This Relais and Chateaux hotel and restaurant are on the edge of Hamilton Harbour. In good weather, meals and afternoon tea are served on the Poinciana Terrace, a spacious harbourside platform filled with umbrella-covered tables and freshly cut flowers. When it is cool or inclement, the elegant service moves inside to the antique-filled Wellington Room. An English-style dining room, it has a fireplace that casts a romantic glow and some heat on nippy nights. You'll dine by candlelight surrounded by aromatic flowers with a piano or harp providing background music.

The Wellington Room has pink and white striped high-backed chairs and matching pink cloths. The china and crystal are first-rate. There are framed prints of Bermuda's flora and fauna amid the antiques.

Reservations are a must for dinner, but come early for cocktails in the glass-covered patio near the bar and take a peek into the sitting areas and library.

Starters include crab salad with grilled pineapple and a parfait of avocado and lobster with cucumber and carrot vinaigrette.

The dinner menu changes frequently, but favorites include roasted boneless quail stuffed with apricots and pistachio nuts, baked pork tenderloin stuffed with apples, walnuts and apricots and seared scallops with vegetable noodles and mushrooms.

Lunch, crowded with local businesspeople, can include Bermuda fish chowder, vegetable spring rolls, codfish cakes and salads with grilled chicken and salmon.

Tea offers a welcome respite from shopping. Small finger sandwiches, rich pastries and a selection of teas and coffees are served on fine china.

After dinner, guests move into the glass-covered sitting room for jazz. It's an easy place to make new friends. Jackets and ties for dinner.

TOM MOORE'S TAVERN
Bailey's Bay, Hamilton Parish
☎ 293-8020
Dinner only 7-9 pm
Very Expensive

Tom Moore's closes every January.

Bermuda's oldest restaurant, built as a private home in 1652, is surrounded by thick woods, which locals laughingly call Tom Moore's Jungle.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

The Irish romantic poet Thomas Moore spent several months in Bermuda in 1804 visiting friends in this house and penning several poems about the area. One refers to a calabash tree in the yard and, amazingly, it still stands today.

Although the house changed hands many times, the present owners took over in 1985 and created a gourmet eaterie once more. An understated white cottage with green shutters at the edge of Walsingham Bay, the restaurant has five small dining areas and four fireplaces. The cedar walls are complemented by crisp white tablecloths and napkins, English silver and fine china and crystal. Drinks are served on a covered terrace.

French dishes dominate the menu, but they are explained in English. Start with the salade rungisserie, a mélange of mushrooms, palm, artichoke, and avocado with a vinaigrette dressing, or try the ceviche, which "cooks" local fish in lime juice, onions, peppers and spices. Lobster is always on the menu, as are the large prawns broiled with white wine and garlic. The paillards of veal or beef with sherry shallot mustard are delicious and they allow you enough room to try the dessert soufflés.

Low-fat and low-salt dishes such as poached fish and vegetables are also available, as are a selection of pastas. Service is impeccable. Reservations are a must, as are jackets for men.

FRESCO'S RESTAURANT & WINEBAR
Chancery Lane, Hamilton
☎ 295-5058
Lunch weekdays 12-12:30 pm
Dinner 6-10 pm
Expensive

A white wrought iron gate, in Hamilton's most charming lane, marks the entrance to Fresco's, arguably the city's most attractive dining spot. New, it is renowned for its award-winning chefs and for the innovative Mediterranean fare they create. There are several dining areas. The inner rooms resemble wine cellars, with vaulted ceilings and lattice brickwork highlighting the mahogany wine racks. The glass-covered terrace allows for al fresco dining year-round. It has frescos of country vineyards and faces a fountain and flower-filled courtyard. A light menu is served in the upstairs wine bar.

Chancery Lane connects Front and Reid streets.

The lunch menu features lots of salads, burgers and even bagels with smoked salmon. If you're in the mood for something more exotic, try the goat cheese terrine that has roasted peppers and zucchini, or the sliced roast duck and spinach with apricot and fig dressing.

It's the dinner menu that sparkles and, though it changes frequently, it always features fresh fish. Try the chargrilled wahoo with potatoes, artichokes and mushrooms or the cassolette with mussels, clams, scallops, shrimp and Bermuda guinea chicks (local lobsters). Other good choices are the rack of lamb roasted with lavender and orange or the chicken breasts marinated in ginger and yogurt. Starters include vegetable crêpes, salads and carpaccios. Leave room for a Bermuda Crumble dessert.

Upstairs, the wine bar has over 100 wines that you can sample as you nibble on tapas. A prime

power-lunch spot, the bar offers a light menu and TV monitors tuned to the stock market. It is also a popular after-work stop for office workers and salespeople from nearby shops. Wine bar hours are noon-1 am (opens at 1 pm Sunday).

Casual smart attire in the dining room and, because Fresco's can only seat 75 people, do reserve for dinner.

WATERLOT INN
Middle Road, Southampton
☎ 238-2555
Dinner only 6:30-9:30 pm
Very Expensive

Housed in a bayside manor dating from 1670, the Waterlot Inn was at once an inn and a warehouse. Ships docked in Great Sound and unloaded their cargo into the basement of the inn. The impressive guest list includes Eleanor Roosevelt and Eugene O'Neil. Unfortunately, the inn was badly damaged in the 1970s and at that time it was purchased by its hillside neighbor, the Southampton Princess. While no longer an inn, it is one of Bermuda's finest restaurants.

There are several dining levels and the entire restaurant is carpeted and painted in pale ochre. Tables are widely spaced and the floral chairs have comfortable leather armrests. The pianist plays golden oldies and you can head to the cigar bar after dinner or, if you prefer, you can opt for a terrace table.

Mediterranean food is featured and lots of local fish is included. You can start with a salad or chowder, but many prefer the open-faced lobster ravioli or crab salad. Snapper with olive tapenade is delicious, as is the yellowfin tuna with sundried tomato crust. Meat dishes include beef tenderloin, veal chops and roast

chicken. If you've saved room for the Drunken Pirate dessert (strudel with rum), you'll be delighted.

Many guests arrive on the Hamilton Princess ferry or private yachts, but most take advantage of the Southampton Princess shuttle bus. Dress is casual smart (jackets, no ties).

Dining in Hamilton

COLONY PUB STEAK HOUSE
Hamilton Princess Hotel
76 Pitts Bay Road, Hamilton
☎ 295-3000 ext. 39
Lunch 11:45-2:30 pm
Dinner 6:30-10 pm
Expensive

The Colony Pub bills itself as a New York steakhouse and that is literally true, for the Angus beef and rib roasts are flown in weekly. The restaurant, on the lobby level, looks like an upscale British club with cedar-paneled walls, tartan plaid armchairs and polished brass accessories. The heart of the pub is its rectangular bar, edged by comfortable high-backed stools. They have several beers on draught, including some local brews.

Pitts Bay Road is the continuation of Front Street.

The buffet table, laden with soups, salads, hot and cold meats and fish, as well as desserts, dominates the room at lunch, when most tables are filled with local businesspeople and shopkeepers. It's a good value for $15.75 if you are a hearty eater. There is also an à la carte menu heavy on burgers, salads and sandwiches.

The restaurant comes alive at night, when T-bones, filet mignon and prime ribs are served. The meats are prepared as you like them and extras include giant

Idaho potatoes, creamed spinach, baked beans and onion rings. Other standouts are lamb or pork chops, roast chicken and grilled fish. Hearty eaters can start at the salad bar or with oysters. Key lime pie is the house specialty and the ice cream is excellent.

The music starts at 9:30 pm and you can enjoy a cigar with your specialty coffee from 10 pm till 1 am. Casual smart attire. The Hamilton Princess is a 10-minute walk from the ferry dock.

PORT O' CALL
87 Front Street
☎ 295-5373
Lunch weekdays
Dinner nightly
Moderate

International bistro.

The decor of this sleek contemporary bistro really stands out. It's designed to look like the interior of a steamship with cedar walls, brass trim and indirect wall lights that resemble port holes. A wood plank floor leads from one dining area to the other and comfortable banquettes line one wall. Many diners opt for a table on the dining terrace on Front Street. There is a new dinner menu every two weeks, but fresh seafood always dominates.

There are always chef's specials.

Sample the wahoo and shrimp spring roll or the fresh mussels in white wine. Main courses include blackened mahi-mahi on spiced seaweed salad (it tastes better then it sounds) or the grilled shrimp and blackened scallops on penne pasta. Landlubbers will find roasted duck, grilled chicken breasts or rib-eye steaks, all prepared with vegetable sauces and served with potatoes.

It's easy to enjoy a glass of wine with dinner since Port O' Call offers more than 30 wines by the glass. Smart casual attire at dinner. Informal attire OK for lunch.

LITTLE VENICE
Bermudiana Road
☎ 295-3503
Lunch weekdays
Dinner Monday-Saturday till 10 pm
Closed Sunday
Expensive

With a name like Little Venice, you know it's Italian.

The city's most upscale Italian eaterie is also its oldest. Curved archways mark several small dining areas that have contemporary chandeliers, pale pastel walls enlivened with frescos of the Tuscan countryside and crisply set tables. Although the owner is from Capri, he and his chefs have fashioned a menu that is both Northern Italian and International. Calling it "cucina fresca," they feature fresh fish and shellfish from Bermuda's waters and produce grown on the island as well.

Openers include tri-color salads, baked artichokes, seafood salad with grilled vegetables and a giant shell stuffed with scallops, tomatoes and asparagus. There are pasta dishes such as lasagna and ravioli. Little Venice is known for its casserola di pesce, a fish and shellfish casserole simmered with chanterelle mushrooms and artichokes. If you are looking for something lighter, there are pizzas and main-course salads. Smart casual attire. Reservations a must.

THE LOBSTER POT
6 Bermudiana Road
☎ 292-6898
Lunch weekdays
Dinner from 5:30 pm. Closed Sunday
Expensive

The place to go for Bermuda fish chowder and lobster.

Reservations for dinner, please.

Even if the name sign disappeared, one step over the threshold and you'd know this was a seafood restaurant. The whitewashed walls are backdrops for fishnets, branches of coral and sea fans. A weathered ship's hull is hoisted over the fireplace and there is a bamboo roof over the bar. The cedar plank floors connecting the two dining rooms are well worn, since the Lobster Pot opened in 1973.

Lobsters are the house specialty and they can be prepared any way you like. If you're in Bermuda between September 1 and March 31, try the spiny Caribbean lobsters, which are in season then. Maine lobsters, in large tanks, are available year-round. This is the place to try Bermuda fish chowder. It's laced with black rum and sherry peppers. Appetizers include a sashimi plate and coconut shrimp. Main dishes with names like "Bermuda Triangle" or "Seafood Lover's Feast" mix and match fish and shellfish prepared in a variety of ways. There are a few meat dishes on the menu, but they are largely ignored. The lighter lunch menu features tuna salad, crab and lobster cakes and a roast beef sub. Informal attire is OK here.

LE FIGARO BISTRO
63 Reid Street
☎ 296-4991
Lunch weekdays
Dinner nightly
Moderate

French.

Though Le Figaro's decor is simple, its menu is anything but. Serving traditional French food accompanied by an extensive wine list, Le Figaro's two small dining rooms have warm yellow walls, floral cushioned chairs and oversize posters of the Mother Country. It all works because the food is so good. There are daily specials for lunch and dinner and special menus that periodically feature the foods and wines of a particular region of France. You can always count on the

baked onion soup, the terrine maison (duck liver pâté) and the escargot. Coq au vin and cassoulet (pork, duck and garlic sausage) seem to be on every table. Vegetarians should try the ratatouille au gratin. There are excellent steaks and fresh fish daily. Small and crowded with local business people at lunch time. Reservations a must here. Casual smart attire.

THE HARBOURFRONT
Front Street
☎ 295-4207
Lunch and dinner
Closed Sunday
Expensive

Continental cuisine and sushi.

With a terrific location on Front Street and an unusual menu, it's easy to see why so many visitors to Bermuda head to Harbourfront. This restaurant on the second floor of an old warehouse building overlooks the ferry terminal. The main dining room is rectangular, with bright yellow tablecloths and attractive lantern-style sconces for subdued lighting. The most popular tables are on the balcony that extends over the street.

Many opt for the Sushi Sampler. It has a little of everything.

The sushi bar occupies the area closest to the bar, but you can also eat sushi in the main dining room. Sushi is most popular during Happy Hour (5-6:30 daily) when norimake, temaki and sashimi platters are washed down with sake and Sapporo beer.

The dinner menu is eclectic, with meat and poultry dishes as well as fish and shellfish. You can open with a Caesar or spinach salad or miso soup. The rack of lamb is prepared Provençale-style and the duck with orange liqueur. Wahoo and salmon are popular and, if you like fresh tuna, you'll love the Tuna Mediterranean, which is sautéed with garlic, rosemary and balsamic vinegar. The homemade Italian ice cream is a light dessert and there is a dessert trolley as well.

Lunch includes fresh salads, burgers and sandwiches.

TUSCANY RESTAURANT, PIZZERIA & BAR
Bermuda House Lane
☎ 292-4507
Lunch and dinner
Closed Sunday
Moderate

Informal Italian.

When asked, Tuscany's friendly owner will tell you that he modeled his restaurant on the restaurants he saw in Florence. A handsome inner dining room has a Bermuda beam and slate ceiling, colorful flags and frescos of the Tuscan countryside. The tables are widely spaced and crisply set. There are also tables on the covered porch that over looks Front Street.

Start with the steamed mussels (in white wine and garlic) or the Portobello caps (stuffed with crab and shrimp). Move on to one of the pizzas. Toppings include mushrooms, ham, pineapple, hamburger, onions and peppers. There are pastas as well as grilled meats and fish. Informal attire.

FISHERMAN'S REEF
Burnaby Hill (off Front Street)
Phone: 292-1609
Lunch weekdays
Dinner 6:30-11 pm nightly
Expensive

Seafood Bermuda-style.

Located upstairs from the Hog Penny Pub, Fisherman's Reef is an upscale restaurant with a nautical motif and a separate bar and cocktail lounge. Its specialties are local seafood prepared in traditional Bermudian style and so the restaurant draws many more locals than tourists.

Bermudians enjoy the St. David's Island Conch Chowder, laced with sherry peppers and black rum. It packs a wallop, so you might prefer the Seafood Salad

Somers' Isle, which is prepared like ceviche. Share an order of conch and corn fritters so you leave room for the "surf and turf." You can select from shrimp, lobster, scallops or local fish and filet mignon, sirloin steak or chicken. The Triangle combines broiled fish, grilled shrimp and filet mignon, while the Cajun Skillet offers shrimp, scallops and filet mignon in a spicy sauce served in a sizzling skillet over rice. Tables are widely spaced and the service is excellent. Best for dinner, when reservations are needed in season. Casual smart attire. After dinner, head downstairs to the Hog Penny for drinks and music.

LA TRATTORIA
22 Washington Lane (between Reid and Church)
☎ 292-7059
Lunch (not Sunday)
Dinner till 10:30 pm
Inexpensive/Moderate

Italian, specializing in pizza and pasta.

La Trattoria is as close to being a comfortable neighborhood restaurant as you'll find on Bermuda. The green, blue and white checked cloths and the Chianti bottles on the tables and hanging from the ceiling set the informal tone for this Neopolitan-style eaterie. You'll wait at the small bar near the entrance. Note the currency pasted nearby and you'll find that Bermuda draws visitors from all parts of the world.

You won't have to wait long for your table or booth for the service is efficient, as is the kitchen. The pizzas and pastas are most popular here. The traditional Margarita pizza (cheese and tomato) is joined by some unusual ones, such as the arugula and prosciutto pie or the capricciosa, which is topped with cheese, ham, tomato, mushrooms and pepperoni. Pastas include meat lasagna, fettuccini alfredo and spaghetti pescatore (shellfish). Other main courses include

Take-out is available.

chicken cacciatore and fish pizzaiola. These main courses are far more expensive than the pastas. Informal attire.

TIP

If La Trattoria is crowded, as it often is, head to **Portofino Restaurant**, on Bermudiana Road (off Front Street near the ferry dock). A bit larger, because of their enclosed sidewalk café, the menu is similar to that of La Trattoria. They have 17 different pizzas and 25 varieties of pasta. Lunch Monday-Saturday. Dinner nightly.

CHOPSTICKS
88 Reid Street
☎ 292-0791
Lunch weekdays
Dinner nightly till 11 pm
Inexpensive

Chinese and Thai.

This L-shaped eatery is attractively decorated with lacquer, colorful umbrellas, butterflies and kites on the walls and hanging from the ceilings, and with bright tablecloths. Chopsticks is not your typical Chinese restaurant; it serves Szechwan, Cantonese, Hunan and Mandarin cuisine, as well as Thai dishes. The menu is large and Chopsticks is one of the few restaurants here that stresses its inexpensive dishes. There are over 60 items on the menu for under $10 (at lunch). Chicken combines with mushrooms, or tomatoes, broccoli, plum sauce or a dozen other choices. Pork and duck dishes are prepared with vegetables, snow peas or garlic sauce. Thai dishes are normally spicy, but you can control the sizzle on the duck with

red curry sauce, beef with string beans or green curry chicken. There is a kid's menu and a take-out shop adjoining the restaurant. Chopsticks is between Court and King Streets near the Government buildings.

THE BOMBAY INDIAN RESTAURANT
75 Reid Street
☎ 292-0048
Lunch weekdays
Dinner till 11 pm
Closed Sundays
Inexpensive

Indian, with a huge selection.

No British colony would be complete without its curry restaurants and Bombay fits the bill perfectly. Strangely located on the third floor of an office building near King Street, Bombay is attractively decorated in shades of red. There are peacock rattan chairs and carved standing screens create small dining areas. The menu is huge and includes tandoori meats, curries, samosas and biryani rice dishes. Beef, shrimp, chicken and vegetables are combined in scores of dishes. All main courses are served with salad, rice, chutney and yogurt. You can't beat the lunch buffet for value. A large assortment of hot and cold dishes are prepared and you can eat until you pass out for $12. A rather formal restaurant, Bombay asks for casual smart attire.

ROSA'S CANTINA
121 Front Street (2nd Floor)
☎ 292-1912
Noon-1 am daily
Inexpensive

Bermuda's only Tex-Mex restaurant.

Can't stand another day without a fajita or burrito? Then head to Rosa's Cantina, Bermuda's only Tex-Mex eaterie, and dig in. The menu is large and includes meat, shrimp and vegetable tacos and enchiladas. Main courses, served with vegetables and rice,

include "smothered chicken" with onions, peppers and melted cheese and "Del Rio" a steak, with a fine peppercorn sauce. Don't forget the salsa and guacamole. There are salads and burgers too.

There is one long dining room and the decor is sombrero, serape and colorful wall hangings throughout. Lots of tourists and kids here. Informal.

Hamilton Pubs

THE HOG PENNY
Burnaby Hill (off Front Street)
☎ 292-2534
Lunch and dinner
Inexpensive/Moderate

British pub, with music.

In Casablanca, everyone goes to Ric's. In Hamilton, visitors looking for an informal lively spot to eat, drink and listen to good music are invariably led to the Hog Penny, the capital's famed British pub and watering hole. The crowd at the wide bar is an interesting mix of Bermudians and sunburned tourists. More attractive then its London counterparts, the Hog Penny is paneled with dark wood and it has wood tables, bentwood chairs and booths. Hammered copper utensils, old fishing and farming tools and antique mirrors add some color.

The Hog Penny serves food from 11:30 am-4 pm, takes a breather, then starts dinner at 5:30 pm. The kitchen closes at 11 pm, but the bar stays open till 1 am. The nightly entertainment starts at 9:30 pm.

The lunch menu includes club and hero sandwiches, but is best known for its burgers. You can settle for the traditional with Swiss cheese, sautéed mushrooms and onions or you can add other cheeses, bacon and BBQ sauce. Chili is also a popular lunch choice.

Dinner finds Portuguese red bean soup, Bermuda onion or fish chowder and Caesar salad for openers. Typical pub fare includes bangers and mash, fish n' chips and steak and kidney pie. These dishes are moderately priced. The curries, such as rogan josh, chicken bhina masala and shrimp and scallops Bombay, are served with rice, chutney and breads. Save room for the mud pie or apple pie à la mode.

You can come in for a draught beer and listen to the music without eating. There is no cover charge. Informal attire.

THE PICKLED ONION
55 Front Street
☎ 295-2263
Lunch and dinner
Moderate
Master Card/Visa only

Bermudian specialties in this lively, informal place.

Not fine dining here, but rather fun dining and lots of imbibing. An island favorite, The Pickled Onion is on the second floor of an old whiskey warehouse. Its wood-beamed ceiling is marked by striking semi-globe light fixtures and cooling ceiling fans. The staff is attired in the traditional T-shirt that has a martini glass with a tipsy onion on the front.

There are booths as well as tables indoors and a few tables on the terrace facing the harbour as well.

Pickled Onion T-shirts are for sale.

The menu is large and covers lots of territory. Bermudian specialties such as fish chowder or cakes join jerked tuna pizza, shrimp linguini and Portuguese sausages from the Azores.

Many Bermudians stop in for a drink and calamari at the bar, which dominates the room. Its very crowded when the shops close at 5 pm. The Pickled Onion opens at 11:30 am and serves till 11 pm. In season, local jazz, pop and calypso groups show up at 9:30 pm

and play till closing at 1 am. No reservations are needed. Informal attire OK at lunch, but no shorts at night.

FLANAGAN'S IRISH PUB AND RESTAURANT
Emporium Building, 69 Front Street
☎ 296-9911
Hours: 10 am-10:30 pm for food
Bar till 2 am (1 am off-season)
Inexpensive

A beehive of activity day and night, Flanagan's like the great pubs of Dublin, does not take itself too seriously. That is part of its lure. It draws a young crowd and also families with children. On the second floor of the upscale Emporium building, its tables spill over into the lobby area, onto its wide terrace overlooking Front Street and in a large inner room dotted with TV sets and posters of the Erin Isle. A crowd usually gathers in front of the 52-inch satellite TV when European soccer or cricket matches are televised. Smaller TVs throughout are often tuned to US football, basketball and baseball games.

Those without cholesterol problems should try the Irish breakfast (it's served all day), which includes two eggs, Irish bacon and sausage, black pudding, grilled tomatoes, steak fries, toast and jam. The lunch menu has sandwiches and burgers, but also some outstanding Irish dishes such as Belfast Bangers and Mash, Donegal Shepherd's Pie and an Irish Reuben. The dinner menu features traditional corned beef and cabbage, steak and kidney pie and BBQ baby back ribs. There are vegetarian dishes and a special kid's menu.

Flanagan's is a great sports bar as well as a pub. It has the largest selection of draught beers on the island and many guests sit at the bar. There is music

every night and there is no minimum or cover charge. The kitchen closes at 10:30 pm. Casual attire.

Cafés, Tea Rooms & Off-Beat Stops

Botanic Garden Tea Room, on the third floor of Trimingham's Department Store, serves light lunches and afternoon tea. Its tables overlook Front Street. The menu changes daily, but always has sandwiches, salads, soups and fruit plates. Monday through Saturday. No credit cards.

Front Street Terrace is A.S. Cooper's answer to the Botanic Garden Tea Room. On the second floor of the store, it too serves sandwiches, quiches and pastries. Only a dozen tables. Monday through Saturday. No credit cards.

Hickory Stick is the capital's best deli and take-out spot. They make overstuffed sandwiches, barbecued ribs and chicken, fish cakes, hot dogs and salads. You can call in your order and it will be ready when you arrive, packed with paper goods and plastic utensils. ☎ 292-1781. No credit cards. 2 Church Street (Bermudian Road).

Hungry Bear, a small stop on Chancery Lane, is Bermuda's answer to Starbucks. It serves Green Mountain roasted coffees, as well as sandwiches and pastries. No credit cards.

Fourways Pastry Shop, in the Washington Mall, (Reid Street) is a local favorite. Officer workers stop in for coffee and pick up sandwiches and pastries. There are several prepared dishes daily. No credit cards. Monday through Saturday 8 am-4:30 pm.

Chit Chat Cyber Café is an informal eaterie with an ambitious menu that includes pizzas, pasta, stir-fry dishes and wraps. They have a full bar, but those us-

ing the in-house computers stick to milkshakes and herbal teas. Take out. Open 11 am-10 pm. Major credit cards. 27 Queen Street.

M.R. Onions, a bit off-the-beaten track on Par-la-Ville Road, is a popular family restaurant during the day and a local watering hole at happy hour and well into the night. Kids love the barbecued chicken and ribs, fried chicken fingers and burgers. Onions is open from noon to 1 am daily. Major credit cards.

Miles To Go, on Pitts Bay Road, is a gourmet take-out shop that imports food products from around the world. You can make your own salad from the salad bar, which has fresh vegetables and fruits, or sample one of the two homemade soups. Sandwiches include corned beef brisket, roasted ham and shrimp salad. There is a patio with a few tables that overlook the harbour. Hours: 8 am-6 pm Monday through Saturday, 1-5 pm Sunday. ☎ 295-1234. You can stop by for the take-out menu and pre-order. Major credit cards.

The breads here are outstanding (there is a bakery on the premises).

Dining in St. George

WHITE HORSE TAVERN
King's Square
Inexpensive/Moderate
Major credit cards
☎ 297-1838

Since the White Horse doesn't take reservations, expect to wait.

Location, location, location! The White Horse, Bermuda's oldest tavern, sits on the waterfront in bustling King's Square. Painted white with green shutters and trim, it has both indoor and open-air tables. Those on the roof-covered terrace that extends over the water are most in demand. Crowded too is the long bar that serves a large variety of beers on tap.

It stays open long after the dining room closes. The restaurant is often crowded with tourists, particularly at lunch.

The menu at lunch (11:30 am-4 pm) is comprised of burgers, sandwiches, and a delicious Caesar salad topped by roast beef, tuna or grilled chicken. The dinner menu (5:30-10 pm) includes pastas, tortellini, steaks, lobsters and braised shank of lamb. There are daily specials and entertainment at night in-season. The White Horse Tavern is also popular with Bermudians.

CARRIAGE HOUSE
Water Street
Moderate/Expensive
Major credit cards
☎ 297-1270

Easily St. George's most elegant eaterie, the landmark Carriage House is in an 18th-century building that once housed the Royal Engineer's Warehouse. The main dining room, on the lower level, has brick interior walls, with brick archways that create separate dining areas. There are lots of hanging plants and lantern-style wall lighting. There are also tables at the wharf where yachts can tie up. You can stop in for lunch (11:30 am-4:30 pm) and sample pan-steamed mussels or a spinach salad. Half an avocado with grilled chicken or a "Stage Coach" (like a chef's salad with roast beef in place of ham) are also popular. Fish n' chips, quiches, sandwiches, burgers and omelettes are also luncheon choices.

The dinner menu (6-9:30 pm) is a lot more formal, with baked snails in herb butter or smoked Scottish salmon among the more popular appetizers. Main courses include grilled salmon and scampi, prime rib with Yorkshire pudding, rack of lamb and sautéed chicken. There is a dessert trolley and specialty cof-

fees. If you are not very hungry, stop in for afternoon tea, served from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Saturday. It includes tea sandwiches, French pastries or hot scones and a pot of tea. Those in the know head to the Carriage House for Sunday Brunch (noon-2:30 pm), which is exceptional. Served buffet-style you can sample smoked salmon, Danish caviar, Greenland prawns and cold salads and meats. Hot dishes include carved roast sirloin, leg of lamb and pan-fried codfish. There are weekly specials. A glass of champagne, dessert and coffee are included.

WHARF TAVERN
14 Water St. at Somers' Wharf
☎ 297-1515
MasterCard/Visa
Inexpensive/Moderate

This is set right on the harbourside in a 200-year-old warehouse. You can eat inside in the wood paneled bar area, but most diners opt for the umbrella-covered tables at dockside or the sturdy wooden tables and chairs on the roof-covered porch. This is a fun place to eat, with a crowded noisy bar and gaming machines. Double-decker burgers are in much demand, as are the pizzas. There are British/Bermudian specialties on the menu as well. They include beer-battered fish n' chips, conch fritters, bangers and mash and shepherd's pie. There's a kid's menu, as well as music nightly in-season. The restaurant is open from 11 am-11 pm daily and the bar is open till 1 am

TEMPTATIONS
York Street
☎ 297-1368
No credit cards
Closed Sunday
Inexpensive

Temptations is very clean and the service is attentive.

Adjacent to St. Peter's Church, this coffee shop-style eaterie serves breakfast and lunch. Continental breakfast, with freshly baked muffins and scones, is a good buy. Sandwiches at lunch include cheese, turkey, ham, chicken, tuna and egg. They are prepared to order. Juicy burgers and hot dogs are also served. Order and pick up your food at the counter and take it to a nearby table.

SAN GEORGIO
Water Street
☎ 297-1307
Lunch and dinner
Closed Sunday
Moderate

An informal family-owned trattoria, San Georgio has an inner dining room and a dozen tables on a terrace overlooking the water. Tables have red and white checked cloths and the eaterie is bright and colorful. The kitchen is glass-enclosed so you can see the chefs twirling the pizzas and grilling the fish and meat. There is an antipasto table and several salads for openers. Pasta dishes include lasagna and tortellini. Grilled local fish is a popular main course.

PASTA PASTA
York Street
☎ 297-2927
No credit cards or reservations
Inexpensive

San Georgio is small. If it is crowded, head to nearby Pasta Pasta. It has a limited menu. It serves either a tossed or Caesar salad and about a dozen pasta dishes. The sauces vary, but always include a meat, seafood and vegetarian selection. That's it. No wine, beer or alcoholic beverages are served.

Dining in St. David's

DENNIS'S HIDEAWAY
Cashew City Road
☎ 297-0044
No credit cards
Reservations essential
Moderate

This is a Bermuda legend. A tiny shack, with a handful of rude wood tables and benches, it serves some of the island's finest seafood. Owner, Dennis Lamb and his son cook up a storm so come hungry and sample "The Works," an incredible seafood feast. It includes shark hash, conch and mussel stews, scallops and lots of local catches. It's price fixed. Smaller eaters can opt for the fish dinner or even smaller platters. Very casual.

THE BLACK HORSE TAVERN
St. David's Village
☎ 297-1991
Accepts major credit cards
Moderate

This is a more traditional restaurant/bar. It serves lunch and dinner daily except Monday. It also serves the traditional fish platters above and adds steaks and chicken dishes. Informal.

Dining at the Dockyard

BEETHOVEN'S RESTAURANT
Clocktower Centre
☎ 234-5009
Major credit cards
Expensive

Named for the dog and not the composer, this is the most attractive restaurant at the Dockyard. It serves breakfast/brunch, lunch and dinner in a wood-paneled dining room and outer terrace. Owned by two Swiss chefs, it serves bagels and a variety of omelettes early in the day and adds sandwiches and pastas at lunch. The dinner menu is continental and quite sophisticated. It includes chilled strawberry soup with champagne, tuna capriccio or Icelandic shrimp salad for starters and Angus steaks, veal chops and lots of fish dishes for entrées. If you tire of shopping, you can also stop by for tea or a drink at the bar.

FROG AND ONION PUB
Cooperage
☎ 234-2900
Visa and Master Card
Moderate

A traditional British pub with several indoor dining areas, Frog and Onion is a local watering hole and restaurant for Bermudians who live or work on the West End. Always crowded and noise-filled, there is a gigantic 18th-century fireplace at its core. Maritime flags on the stone walls, a ship's mast over the long bar and strategically placed beer barrels give the pub a nautical air. Traditional pub fare is served at lunch and dinner. Included are fish n' chips, Cornish pastries, beef n' barley pie and sausage and mash. There are also sandwiches, salads and steaks. There is a special children's menu and the game room has pool tables and arcade games for the kids too. There is also a dining room in the garden atrium. The kitchen serves from 11 am to 10 pm. The bar is open till 1 am.

PIRATE'S LANDING
Dockyard Terrace
Lunch 11:30 am-4 pm. Dinner 6-10 pm.
☎ 234-5051
Major credit cards
Inexpensive

This casual dining spot is adjacent to the Ferry Landing. Housed in a white stucco building, it has a small inner dining room as well as an awning-covered terrace. The menu is casual for both lunch and dinner and it's easy to find something to enjoy. Pizza, burgers, gyros and grilled chicken sandwiches are popular at lunch but, if you prefer, you can have a crab and shrimp salad or fried calamari. These are joined at dinner by chicken, lamb and vegetable curries, shrimp and chips, pastas and grilled fish and meats. Casual.

Dining in the West End

SOMERSET COUNTRY SQUIRE
Mangrove Bay, Somerset
☎ 234-0105
Moderate
Major credit cards

This is a bi-level tavern. The restaurant is downstairs, while the bar and dining terrace are on the main level. It serves lunch from 11:30 am-4 pm Monday through Saturday (12-4 pm Sunday) and dinner nightly from 6:30 pm. The lunch menu offers Bermuda onion soup, crab and shrimp salad, spicy wings and a variety of sandwiches. The dinner menu includes shrimp cocktail, Caesar salad and "Squire Shrimp," which are served warm with a garlic and spicy sauce. Steak and kidney pie, prime rib and a va-

riety of curries too. Homemade apple pies and strawberry short cakes are popular for dessert.

IL PALIO
Somerset Road
Dinner only 6-10 pm
☎ 234-1049
All major credit cards
Closed Monday
Moderate

Recently renovated, Il Palio serves Tuscan specialties in a candlelit dining room. The wood tables and comfortable armchairs are widely spaced and the service is relaxed and friendly. Pizzas are very popular, as are the pasta dishes. Veal scaloppini and fresh fish sautéed with capers, garlic and nuts are delicious. There is a pasta take-out menu as well as a bar.

Dining in Other Parishes

HENRY VIII PUB & RESTAURANT
South Shore Road, Southampton
☎ 238-1977
Lunch 12-2:30 pm (Pub Bar 11 am-1 am)
Dinner 6-10 pm
Expensive

The Pub Bar is open from11 am to 1 am.

Location! Location! Location! You can't have a better one than Henry VIII, which has a view of the ocean, is across the road from the Sonesta Hotel and within easy walking distance of both The Reefs and Southampton Princess. If you expect all your fellow diners to be tourists, you'd be wrong. Henry VIII has been serving its signature prime rib and yorkshire pudding to Bermudians for 25 years. Some guests find the Tudor-style building and Laura Ashley-clad "serving wenches" a bit much, but the charming ambience

and extraordinarily friendly staff will soon put you at ease. There are four dining areas, all with oak paneling and oak tables, plus brass accents and period lighting fixtures. The Oak Room Pub, to the left of the entrance, houses a busy bar and has a dozen tables where you can have a drink before dinner or enjoy the entertainment that starts at 9 pm nightly.

TIP

Reserve a table in the front dining room (near the Oak Bar), where the vaulted ceilings have hanging chandeliers and the windows overlook the shore.

The lunch menu and the Sunday brunch have several Bermudian specialties such as fish chowder and mussel pie in addition to burgers and sandwiches.

The dinner menu has British and Continental dishes primarily. Outstanding are the English mixed grill, duck à l'orange, steak and kidney pie and shrimp Provençale, which is flamed at your table. Start with His Majesty's Own Salad, a mix of fresh greens, tomatoes, avocado, radishes and Bermuda onions. Vegetarians should try The Three Tenors, a trio of peppers filled with rice and ratatouille.

Reservations are a must. The dress code is casual smart, but jackets are not required. You'll want to linger after dinner for the entertainment (singer, piano, comic) that starts at 9 pm.

SWIZZLE INN
3 Blue Hole Hill, Bailey's Bay
☎ 293-9300
Lunch 11 am-6 pm (Bar and light food till 12:30 am)
Dinner 6-10:30 pm
Closed Mondays in January and February

Some places take on an aura that is larger than life. So it is with the Swizzle Inn Pub, Bermuda's oldest and most informal watering hole. The island's most famous drink, the rum swizzle, was created at the bar here. Hundreds of business cards and guest graffiti on the walls attest to its potency. Good food, often an afterthought, is a bonus. There's a lot happening at the Swizzle Inn. You can eat inside or on two outer patios. There's a no smoking room as well as a cigar bar. There's usually a wait for the dartboards and pool tables. All these activities are fueled by pitchers of rum swizzle.

The Bailey's Bay fish sandwich, with beer-battered cod and melted cheddar, is a local favorite at lunch, as is the "Swizzleburger" with cheese, bacon, onions, mushrooms, chili and jalapeno peppers. Bangers and Mash, Johnny's Butt Kick'n Chili or his equally potent nachos are served all day and there are soups and salads too. Heartier fare at dinner includes curries, ribeye steaks, stir fry dishes and sweet and sour shrimp. Johnny's bread pudding with brandy sauce is a dessert winner.

If ice cream is your favorite dessert, cross the road to "Bailey's Ice Cream." They have 25 different flavors.

Local bands entertain inside when dinner starts and they close the place down at 12:30 am. Calypso bands keep the beat on the outer patios during the day.

Take home a T-shirt or mug from the Swagger-Out gift shop. They'll be reminders of one of your best nights on Bermuda. Very informal.

★ WHAT'S A RUM SWIZZLE?

The drink invented at the Swizzle Inn is made with 4 oz. of dark rum, 3 oz. of orange juice, 1 oz. grenadine, the juice of a fresh lemon and a dash or two of Angostura bitters. Add these to crushed ice and shake the container vigorously until you see a head. Serve in a chilled glass garnished with an orange slice. Some bartenders substitute lime juice for the lemon.

PAW PAWS
87 South Road, Warwick
☎ 236-7459
Lunch 11 am-5 pm
Dinner 6-10 pm
MasterCard/Visa only
Moderate

Paw Paws also serves breakfast from 8:30 am.

An informal bistro, this is a popular stop for locals as well as visitors staying in nearby housekeeping units. Its building isn't impressive and its patio dining area with umbrella-covered tables edges South Road, not an appealing view. But its attractive inner dining room and sophisticated menu come as a surprise. The pastel walls sport murals of papaw (papaya) trees, scenes of Italy and works done by local artists. There are starched tablecloths and hovering staff people.

Bus #7 stops near Paw Paws.

The lunch menu is heavy on salads and sandwiches, but the most popular dish is the house specialty, Paw Paw Montespan, a casserole with green papaya, ground beef, tomatoes and cheese. It's enough for two with a salad. The dinner menu, served from 6 pm on, includes lobster ravioli with smoked salmon, red snapper with banana sauce, shark steak Creole and

crabmeat fritters. You can dawdle over dessert. The bar stays open till 1 am.

Sunday brunch is crowded and the overwhelming choice is the traditional Bermudian dish, codfish and potatoes with avocado, bananas and tomato sauce.

There are few dining choices in Warwick so reservations are a good idea.

TIO PEPE
South Shore Road, Southampton
☎ 238-1897
Hours: 11 am-10:30 pm
Inexpensive

Although its name sounds Mexican, Tio Pepe is an Italian restaurant with a dynamite location in Southampton Parish, across South Road from the entrance to Horseshoe Bay. It's also inexpensive, which is quite a novelty in an area that houses Bermuda's upscale resort hotels. Tio Pepe's gregarious owners Enrique and Norris, are always on hand, greeting guests and making sure that everything is simpatico.

You can eat on the outer patio but, since it sits at roadside, the air is fresher in one of the three indoor dining areas. The tables are covered with deep red and green tablecloths and the whitewashed walls are festooned with green plants and hanging Chianti bottles.

Portions are generous here.

The menu includes a dozen varieties of pizza, from the traditional Margherita (cheese and tomato) to the exotic Mexican (ground beef, jalapenos, salsa and cheese). The pizzas serve one person. There are an equal number of pasta dishes, including spaghetti and meatballs or shellfish, lasagna and linguine pesto. If you want something more substantial, there's chicken parmagiana, filet mignon and spiny lobster.

Many families leaving Horseshoe Bay after a day of fun stop here for dinner, so if you want a less frenetic dinner, reserve a table after 8 pm. Informal attire.

Bermuda After Dark

While there are no big show-biz names, Vegas-type clubs or casinos, Bermuda, is not exactly a spot for a hot Ovaltine and early-to-bed routine. Evening entertainment exists, but it tends to be low-key and centered around the hotels and restaurants. The resort hotels and cottage colonies offer entertainment virtually every night, as do many restaurants. It may be a jazz group, or piano or a steel band, but something is usually happening. Buffet and barbeque dinners at informal poolside eateries allow for casual dining and entertainment under the stars. Dine-Around programs offer the option of dining at other hotels and restaurants during your stay.

TIP

Pick up a copy of Friday's *Royal Gazette* or *Bermuda Sun*. They have weekend entertainment listings.

Cultural Events

The **Bermuda Festival of Performing Arts** is Bermuda's major cultural event, drawing international artists from all over the world. It features classical music, jazz and pop groups, dance and theatrical groups, with performances nightly except Sundays. The festival starts mid-January and runs till the end of February annually. Performances are held at the City Hall Theatre in Hamilton. ☎ 441-295-1291.

To get program information contact the **Visitor's Service Bureau**. ☎ 441-292-0023 or 800-237-6832.

You can buy tickets in advance for the festival and for other cultural events from the Visitors Service Bureau box office. ☎ 441-292-8572. All major credit cards are accepted.

The **Festival Fringe** had its inaugural season in 2000. Designed to complement the annual festival of Performing Arts and running concurrently with it, this new cultural event offers new opportunities to enjoy local and visiting performing artists. The schedules for both programs are printed in the fall. For program information, ☎ 441-292-9447. Website: www.bermudafestival.com.

Concerts in the Park

A pleasant way to spend a Sunday evening is to grab a picnic basket and a blanket and head to **Victoria Park** in Hamilton. Follow Burnaby Street (it becomes Cedar Avenue) for four blocks from Front Street. Concerts are held once a month from April through December at 6 pm. Gospel one week, cool jazz or a country hoedown on another. It's lots of fun.

Theater

A local group stages romantic comedies, murder mysteries and gothic thrillers on a rotating basis year-round. Performances at 9 pm, Wednesday through Saturday in the **Gazebo Lounge**, Hamilton Princess Hotel. ☎ 441-295-3000. Tickets $25. Can be combined with dinner in the hotel restaurant for $60.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals are performed only at Harvard University and in Bermuda during College Weeks (Spring Break) in March and April. They've

been doing them since the 1960s and tickets are hard to come by. Performances, at the Hamilton City Hall Theatre, start at 8 pm. You can buy tickets in advance from the Visitor's Service Bureau Ticket Office. ☎ 441-295-1727

Bermuda Heritage/Harbour Nights. From April through October, join in the fun as locals and visitors stroll along sampling local dishes, buying handcrafts and jewelry or watching the street buskers entertain. The shops stay open late as well. Tuesday – King's Square, St. George, 7 to 10 pm. Wednesday – Front Street, Hamilton 7 to 10 pm.

Classical Music

Bermuda has a Philharmonic Orchestra and choir that gives concerts throughout the year. The schedule is listed in the *Calendar of Events*, published annually.

Dance

Unique to Bermuda, **Gombey dancing** has its roots in West Africa and in the ceremonies of Native Americans. For a long time the dancing was shunned because many considered it part of the slave culture, but now it is celebrated as part of Bermuda's heritage. The dancers wear brightly colored costumes decorated with sequins, fringes and ribbons. They pantomime Bible stories to the beat of a goatskin drum. It is exuberant. Gombey dancers traditionally dance on New Year's Day and on Boxing Day. On other holidays they dance on the streets of Hamilton or at one of the resort hotels. You can see them on Tuesdays from November through March in the cruise ship terminal on Front Street.

The **Bermuda Civic Ballet** is the island's major ballet troupe. Often a guest artist from abroad will appear with them.

The **National Dance Theatre of Bermuda** is best known for its modern dance performances. Check schedules in the *Calendar of Events*.

Wine Bar

The wine bar at **Fresco's**, Chancery Lane (off Front Street), Hamilton, is a popular after-work stop and the action continues into the night. Lots of wines by the glass and great tapas. Late-night desserts served. Open till 1 am. ☎ 441-295-5058.

Pubs

These lively places stay open till 1 am. Some have live music, while others have large screen TVs tuned to international sporting events.

In Hamilton

Flanagan's Pub, 69 Front Street, ☎ 295-8299

Hog Penny Pub, Burnaby Hill, ☎ 292-2534

Pickled Onion, 53 Front Street, ☎ 295-2263

Robin Hood, 25 Richmond Road, ☎ 295-3314

In St. George's Parish

Black Horse Tavern, St. David's Island, ☎ 297-1991

White Horse Tavern, King's Square, ☎ 297-1838

Wharf Tavern, Somers' Wharf, ☎ 297-1515

Island-wide

Swizzle Inn, Bailey's Bay, ☎ 293-1854

Frog and Onion Pub, Royal Naval Dockyard, ☎ 234-2900

Oak Pub Room, Henry VIII Restaurant, South Road, ☎ 238-1977

North Rock Brewing Co., Collector's Hill & South Road, ☎ 236-6633

Nightclubs

THE CLUB
Bermudiana Road, Hamilton
☎ 292-4978

A sophisticated club peopled by upscale locals and visitors. There is dancing every night till 3 am. No cover charge. The Club is above the Little Venice Restaurant.

THE OASIS
69 Front Street
☎ 292-4978

The Oasis draws a younger crowd that enjoys dancing to the rock and disco music. April through October hours are 9 pm to 3 am nightly. Cover charge. November through March, the Oasis is open Thursday through Sunday only. No cover charge.

COCONUT ROCK
20 Reid Street
☎ 292-1043

Music videos, but no dancing. Lots of young people.

Cover charges are the norm at Bermuda's nightclubs.

ATTITUDES
Reid Street (near King)

Busy bar, music and dancing draws a largely gay and lesbian crowd. Open nightly till 3 am.

NEPTUNE CLUB
Southampton Princess Hotel
☎ 238-2555

Chic ambience, good entertainment and good music. Tuesday through Saturday, 9 pm to midnight.

CLUB 21
Royal Naval Dockyard
☎ 234-2721

Jam sessions by local musicians and fine jazz. Tuesday through Saturday, 9 to 11:30 pm. Sundays, 9 pm to 2 am. Call first.

CLAY HOUSE INN
77 North Shore Road
☎ 292-3193

For an evening of steel band music and limbo dancing head here. Shows at 10:15 pm nightly.

HUBIE'S BAR
10 Angle Street, Hamilton
☎ 293-9287

Live jazz, Friday nights 7 to 10 pm.

Evening Cruises

Sail into Hamilton Harbour or Great Sound for a buffet dinner, live music, open bar and dancing.

Don't Stop The Carnival has evening cruises to Hawkin's Island. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 pm to 10 pm, May to October. Departs from Albuoy's Point, near the Ferry Terminal. ☎ 292-8652.

Bermuda A-Z ?

American Express – Represented in Hamilton by Meyer Agencies, 36 Church Street, ☎ 295-4176. Offers emergency check cashing.

Bermuda Bookstore – Centrally located on Queen Street in Hamilton, this is Bermuda's oldest bookstore and it specializes in books about Bermuda. You can pick up reading material as well.

Bermuda "Onion" – When is an "Onion" not a vegetable that enhances salads and burgers? When it is the nickname that is given to Bermuda's natives.

Bermuda's Tourist Offices Abroad –

In the US:
205 East 42 Street 16th Floor
New York, NY 10017

245 Peachtree Center, #803
Atlanta, GA 30303

269 South Beverly Drive, #488
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

In Canada:
1200 Bay Street, #1004
Toronto, Ontario M5R2A5

For brochures: ☎ 441-223-6106 US;
416-923-9600 Canada

Business Hours – Most businesses are open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. On Harbour and Heritage nights shops stay open till 9 pm, as they do occasionally when several cruise ships are in port.

Calendar of Events – Bermuda has an event to suit every interest. They include annual events such as the Bermuda Festival, as well as specific monthly events and year-round events. There are sporting events such as tennis tournaments, art shows, harness racing and yacht races. To list them here would take up a lot of paper and ink and not do them justice. Call the Bermuda Tourist Office at the numbers below and request the *Calendar of Events*. It is a 32-page catalog printed each fall for the following year.

In Bermuda: ☎ 441-295-1480
In the US: ☎ 800-223-6106
In Canada: ☎ 416-923-9600

Departure Tax – There is a $20 departure tax for adults and children over two years of age when leaving by airplane. Lately the airlines have been adding the tax to the cost of your ticket. If not, it will be collected at the airport. Cruise ship passengers pay a $60 departure tax. It is always pre-collected.

Drug Laws – Importing or possessing unlawful drugs, including marijuana, is an offence and there are stiff penalties, which include fines and imprisonment.

Education – Education is free and compulsory from ages 5-16. The island's literacy rate is almost 98%. The curriculum is similar to those in Britain and the United States. Most schools are coed and students wear distinctive uniforms. Bermuda has a college, but many Bermudian's complete college abroad.

Electricity – Local outlets carry 110V, 60 cycles and are identical to those in the US. No adapters are required.

Disabled Travelers – Some of the larger hotels have improved their facilities for disabled travelers and

several beaches are wheelchair-accessible. Ferries are wheelchair-accessible as well. ☎ 441-293-5035, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, for details.

Drinking Water – Resort hotels, cottage colonies and upscale restaurants use filtered water. If you are staying in a housekeeping unit or inn, discuss the drinking water with the manager. Bottled water is readily available.

Gasoline – If you rent a cycle, you'll find gasoline easy to buy. There are gas stations on all parts of the island. The stations typically close at 7 pm.

Grocery Stores – Markets are located throughout the island for those who want to do some of their own cooking. Many deliver. They stock prepared foods (for picnics), dairy products, canned goods, over-the-counter toiletries and liquor.

A-One Smith's
Middle Road, Smith's
☎ 236-8763

Giant Foods
Middle Road, Warwick
☎ 236-1344

Heron Bay Marketplace
Middle Road, Southampton
☎ 238-1993

Hitching Post
Somerset Road, Sandy's
☎ 234-0951

Modern Mart
South Shore Road, Paget
☎ 236-6161

Somers Supermarket
York Street, St. George's
☎ 297-1177

The Market Place
Reid Street, Hamilton
☎ 292-3163

The Supermarket
Front and King Street, Hamilton
☎ 292-2064

Holidays – Bermuda celebrates holidays by closing businesses and with lots of pomp and circumstance. In many cases, dates vary from year to year. Public holidays that fall on Saturday and Sunday are normally celebrated on Monday.

New Year's Day – January 1
Good Friday
Easter Sunday
Bermuda Day – May 24
The Queen's Birthday – 1st or 2nd Monday in June
Cup Match Days – (cricket) Thursday and Friday in August
Labor Day – 1st Monday in September
Christmas Day – December 25
Boxing Day – December 26

Hurricanes – The hurricane season lasts officially from June to November and, although Bermuda has been pounded by hurricanes, it is a rare occurrence. More storms hit the US mainland than Bermuda.

Internet Access – Most hotels and even smaller inns offer Internet access. The hotel access number lets you get online and you can surf the web or check your e-mail. You must have your own PC and modem. Ask your hotel if the service is available and what the rates are.

Mail and Post Offices – Stamped mail can be left at your hotel desk or deposited in the red boxes marked

with the Queen's monogram. Letters and post cards require 65¢ stamps. It takes a week for mail to reach North American destinations and longer elsewhere. The Perot Post Office on Church Street is Bermuda's main post office. There are others in St. George and in small villages throughout the island.

Marriage in Bermuda – Last year half the people who got married here were foreigners. The government keeps the red tape to a minimum and virtually every hotel in this book offers a special honeymoon package. They include candlelit dinners, champagne breakfasts, spa treatments and two-person cycles. You can arrange for the ceremony to be performed at the hotel, at a local house of worship or on a beach. Civil ceremonies take place at the Registry office in Hamilton. Call the Bermuda Department of Tourism and ask for the brochure, "Weddings and Honeymoons." It will explain the entire process and legal obligations as well as the honeymoon packages offered by many hotels.

In the US: ☎ 800-223-6106
In Canada: ☎ 416-923-9600

Medical Services – King Edward VII Hospital, ☎ 236-2345, in Paget Parish is Bermuda's only hospital. It has an emergency room and ambulance service. There are private doctors and dentists as well. Call the hospital or check with your hotel concierge should you require one.

Medications – Always bring enough prescription medicine to last your entire stay and make sure it is on your person and not packed in a checked suitcase. Do not become a walking drugstore, however. You can purchase familiar over-the-counter items easily.

Movie Theatres – There are movie theatres in Hamilton (Queen Street), at the Royal Naval Dockyard

(Cooperage) and on the approach to St. George's Town. All show first-run films. Check the newspapers for features and schedules.

Newspapers – The ***Royal Gazette*** is the only daily newspaper here. The ***Bermuda Sun*** and ***Mid-Ocean News*** are printed Wednesdays and Fridays. No local papers on Sunday. Foreign newspapers are available at hotel sundry shops and in Hamilton. You'll see *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *London Times* and *International Herald Tribune*. Friday's editions of the *Gazette* and *Sun* have weekend entertainment guides.

OTB – You can place bets on horse racing and major sporting events. A bank of TVs show races at individual tracks in the US and England. There are video poker machines. *Hours:* 8 am to 7 pm daily, except Sunday. Queen Street.

Pharmacies – There are pharmacies in Hamilton, St. George and Somerset. Local markets and hotel sundry shops sell many over-the-counter items.

Public Rest Rooms – There are public restrooms near City Hall, in Par-La-Ville Park and at Albuoy's Point in Hamilton. In St. George's you'll find them at Town Hall and Somers' Wharf. Public beaches have rest rooms as well.

Religion – The majority of Bermudians are members of the Anglican Church. Other denominations represented include Baptist, Christian Scientists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, Muslim, Roman Catholic and Seventh-Day Adventists. Ask your concierge to check for services in your area.

Safety – Bermuda is among the world's safest destinations and violent crimes are rare. Crime specifically targeted at tourists is also rare. But that does not

mean crime is non-existent. Use the same good common sense that you would at home. Don't wander through Hamilton's back streets after businesses have closed down. Don't carry large amounts of cash and don't bring valuables to the beach. Cycle thefts are the main crime problem. It affects locals as well as visitors, but the color of your license plate identifies you as a visitor. Always lock your cycle.

Smoking – Smoking is permitted in public places and many restaurants unless restrictions are posted.

Telephones

Dialing Code – To call Bermuda from abroad you must dial 441 before the seven-digit number.

Local Calls – Local phone numbers have 7 digits. All calls within Bermuda are local. There are public pay phones throughout the island. They accept coins (Bermudian and some even accept US coins) or telephone cards. You can buy a phone card in $10, $20 or $50 denominations at the tourist offices and the Cable and Wireless office on Church Street in Hamilton. You can use them for local and international calls.

Hotels add a surcharge even on local calls and on those made with a calling card.

International Calls – You can dial direct from all parts of the island with a personal telephone card. There are specially marked AT&T USA Direct phones at the airport, Hamilton's cruise-ship dock and King's Square in St. George's. Credit card and telephone card calls can be made from Perot Post Office and the Cable and Wireless office. Both are on Church Street in Hamilton. To call the US and Canada, dial 0 plus area code and number. Otherwise, dial 011 plus area code and number.

Time – Bermuda is in the Atlantic Standard Time Zone, which is one hour later than Eastern Standard

Time. When it is 10 am in Bermuda, it is 9 am in New York. Daylight savings time begins the first Sunday in April and ends the last Sunday in October.

Visitor's Service Bureaus (Tourist Offices) – The offices are staffed by friendly, helpful people delighted to tell you about Bermuda. They are also stocked with a wealth of printed material about the island. Make sure to pick up the *Calendar of Events*, which is printed annually. Offices are as follows:

Hamilton Ferry Dock, ☎ 295-1480, Monday through Saturday 9 am to 5 pm.

King's Square, St. George's, ☎ 297-1642, Monday through Saturday 9 am to 5 pm.

Royal Naval Dockyard, ☎ 234-3824, seven days a week, 9 am to 5 pm.

Airport. Opens to meet arriving flights.

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